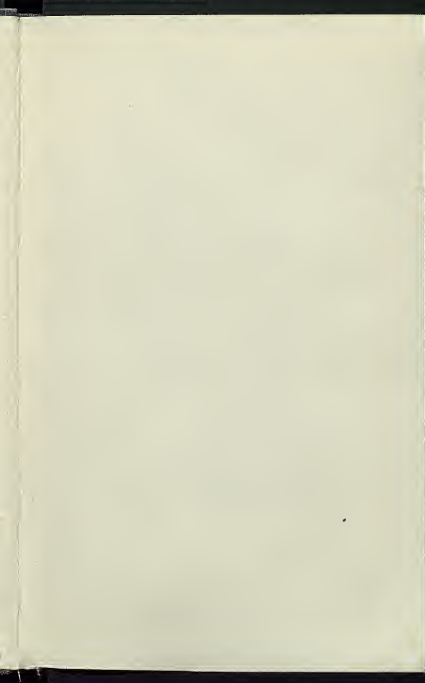


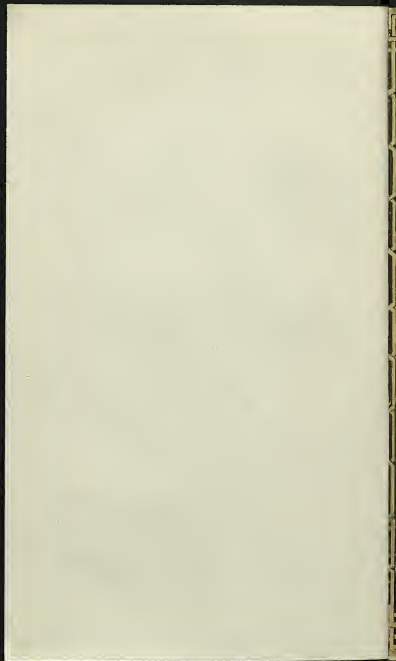
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# HORSES:

THEIR VARIETIES, BREEDING,

AND

Management in Health and Disease.



BY H. D. RICHARDSON,

Author of "Dogs," "Pigs," "Domestic Fowl," "Bees."

DUBLIN

JAMES M'GLASHAN,

23, DOLAN-STREET.

W. S. ORR & CO.

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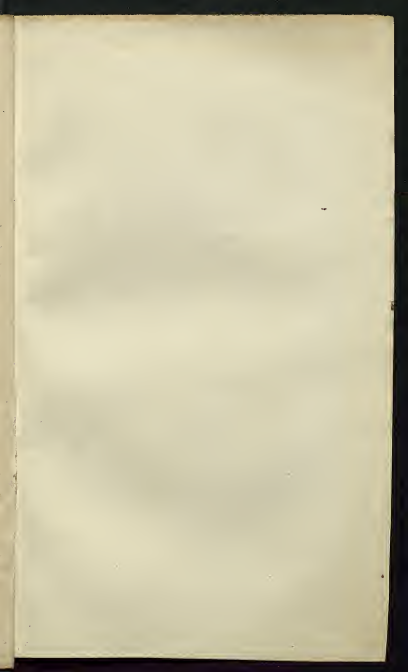
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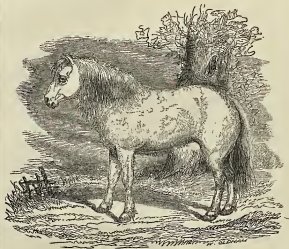
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AUTHOR OF "DOGS," "PIGS," "THE HIVE AND THE HONEY-BEE," "DOMESTIC  
FOWL," "THE PESTS OF THE FARM," ETC. ETC.

With numerous illustrations,  
DRAWN BY CHARLES GREY AND ENGRAVED BY W. OLDHAM.

FOURTH THOUSAND.

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## PREFACE.

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AGAIN, dear public, has my willing pen been called into requisition on your behalf, in order to contribute to your amusement, and, I hope, instruction. It is for you to pronounce upon the merits or demerits of my attempt; but, ere sitting in judgment, recollect that it is the duty of the judge to be counsel for the accused: I therefore trust that you will give me full credit for all such portions of this work as you approve of, and accord indulgence for all such as you may condemn. I have laboured under no small difficulty on the present occasion, by reason of the limits to which I have been necessarily restricted. The importance of the subject of the horse and his management furnishes scope for most voluminous detail, and all this detail was to be compressed into my hundred pages—exposing me to the constant danger of expatiating at too great length on one portion of the subject, to the necessary curtailment of the detail proper to another. Under these circumstances, and feeling a strong conviction that, where it is imperative to make the selection, zoological description must, in a *farmer's series*, be regarded as secondary to practical detail, I have endeavoured to condense the former into as brief a space as possible, in order to admit of devoting to the latter the full portion of attention which its

importance deserves. I conceive, at the same time, that I have not omitted any matter relative to the natural history of the horse, or his varieties, essential, or even useful, to be known.

Another difficulty which presented itself, was, the subject of the diseases of the horse. I feared that the limited space which would necessarily fall to the lot of that department of my work, would render it impossible for me to enter into such a dissertation upon the symptoms, history, and treatment of the many diseases to which the horses have been rendered liable in his present condition of artificial culture, and too frequently improper management, as would be of the slightest use; and, at the same time, it was impossible for me to disguise from myself the fact, that something of the kind would not only be looked for, but was absolutely essential to the completeness of the volume. In this case, it will be seen that I have adopted a middle course; I have presented the reader with a rapid summary of the most frequent and important diseases to which the horse is subject, describing their premonitory symptoms; and, in all cases where I conceived it could avail anything, I have given instructions for the preliminary treatment useful to be adopted, while a veterinary surgeon was being sent for. I am satisfied that anything more than this would have been not merely useless, but absolutely mischievous. The less the amateur doses or quacks his horse the better. Fortunately, veterinary surgeons are sufficiently numerous, and no written advice, however copious in its details, could at all supersede their services. For the proper treatment of an animal under disease, a thorough knowledge of his anatomy and physiology, with practical study of his pathology, is no less

necessary than for the treatment of a human being under similar circumstances.

As fully nine-tenths of the morbid affections to which horses are subject, are attributable to erroneous systems of management, it seemed to me that it would be more profitable to the reader were I to devote whatever space I could spare to the best modes for the *prevention* of disease, by persuading keepers of horses to substitute correct systems of management for incorrect; I have therefore been minute in my details connected with stable management, feeding, grooming; whatever, in my opinion, bore more immediately on the *preservation of the animal in health*; on what, in short, is called by medical writers, *hygiene*. I hope and think that some of my remarks relative to these matters will be found useful, as also my attempts to point out the best modes of correcting or curing certain *vices* or *bad habits* so frequently incident to horses in civilized countries; for in less artificial conditions, where this noble animal has but been adopted as a useful friend or willing servant, the vices to which I allude are scarcely ever known to manifest themselves. It is only where brutality and ignorance take the place of kindness and judgment—where from being a willing servant the horse is degraded into the fettered slave, that the natural noble gentleness of his nature is displaced by vice or insubordination.

With the above explanations, which I have deemed necessary, I now present my volume to the public, and await the result of their verdict. If I have failed, it has been with the best intentions to succeed in advocating the cause of a noble and much persecuted animal—probably the most valuable man has ever subjected to domestication.

H. D. R.

Dublin, May, 1848.

# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

	PAGE
The Arabian . . . . .	5
The Godolphin Barb . . . . .	11
The Highland Pony . . . . .	35
The Sheltie . . . . .	ib.
The Irish Hunter . . . . .	37
Foigh-a-ballagh . . . . .	39
Flying Childers . . . . .	40
The Hackney . . . . .	45
The Cleveland Bay . . . . .	47
The Clydesdale . . . . .	48
The Irish Dray-horse . . . . .	49
The Suffolk Punch . . . . .	51

# CONTENTS.

## CHAPTER I.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
Introductory .. ..	1	Original Country .. ..	3

## CHAPTER II.

### ASIATIC HORSES.

The Arabian .. ..	4	The Tarsee .. ..	9
The Persian .. ..	7	The Takan .. ..	10
The Tartarian .. ..	ib.	The Polacco .. ..	ib.
The Turkoman .. ..	8	The Catch .. ..	ib.
The Turkish .. ..	ib.	The Dattymarr .. ..	ib.
Hindostanee .. ..	9		

## CHAPTER III.

### AFRICAN HORSES.

The Barb .. ..	10	The Horses of Donkale .. ..	11
The Nubian .. ..	11	" Egypt .. ..	ib.
The Horses of the "Hegira" .. ..	ib.		

## CHAPTER IV.

### HORSES OF AMERICA.

Wild Steed .. ..	13	Horses of West Indian Islands .. ..	14
Horses of Canada .. ..	14	English Importations .. ..	ib.
Improvement in American breeds .. ..	ib.		

## CHAPTER V.

### HORSES OF EUROPE.

History of the Horse in England .. ..	15	The Crusades .. ..	21
The Roman Conquest .. ..	ib.	Richard Cœur de Leon .. ..	ib.
Introduction of the Saddle .. ..	17		

## CHAPTER VI.

### HORSES OF EUROPE—Continued.

Establishment of Post-Horses and Stages .. ..	25	The Markham Arabian .. ..	29
---	----	---------------------------	----

## CHAPTER VII.

### THE "RESTORATION."

The Darley Arabian .. ..	31	The Present Reign .. ..	33
--------------------------	----	-------------------------	----

## CHAPTER VIII.

## INDIGENOUS HORSES OF SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
Highland Pony .. ..	35	Hunter .. ..	37
Sheltie .. ..	ib.	Polish-a-ballagh .. ..	38
Irish Horses .. ..	36	Harkaway .. ..	ib.

## CHAPTER IX.

## HINTS AS TO MANAGEMENT.

The Racer .. ..	40	The Clydesdale .. ..	47
Flying Chlders .. ..	41	The Flemish .. ..	ib.
The Hackney .. ..	45	The Mammoth Horse .. ..	49
The Carriage Horse .. ..	47	The Irish Dray Horse .. ..	50
The Cleveland Bay .. ..	ib.	The Suffolk Punch .. ..	51

## CHAPTER X.

NOTES ON STABLE MANAGEMENT—WATER .. ..	52
--	----

## CHAPTER XI.

GROOMING AND DRESSING .. ..	54
-----------------------------	----

## CHAPTER XII.

A FEW WORDS TO FARMERS .. ..	57
------------------------------	----

## CHAPTER XIII.

HINTS ABOUT BREEDING—ADVICE AS TO FOALING TIME .. ..	5
--	---

## CHAPTER XIV.

BREAKING OR TRAINING .. ..	67
----------------------------	----

## CHAPTER XV.

FEEDING AND GENERAL MANAGEMENT .. ..	64
--------------------------------------	----

## CHAPTER XVI.

HORSE-TAMING AND ITS SECRETS .. ..	77
------------------------------------	----

## CHAPTER XVII.

VICES AND THEIR REMEDY .. ..	83
------------------------------	----

## CHAPTER XVIII.

## DISEASES OF THE HORSE.

How to Bleed .. ..	89	How to Drench .. ..	90
--------------------	----	---------------------	----



# H O R S E S ;

## THEIR VARIETIES, MANAGEMENT,

ETC. ETC.

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### CHAPTER I.

#### INTRODUCTORY.

OF all animals with which we are acquainted, the Horse is, perhaps, the most calculated to impress the beholder with admiration. True, he does not possess the giant stature of the giraffe, the massive proportions of the elephant, the headlong power of the rhinoceros, the ferocious courage of the lion, or the wild and savage fury of the tiger ; but, in wanting these qualities, he retains those proper to himself in a state so much the more unalloyed ; they stand out in so much the bolder relief, and, consequently, *coerce* from us so much the more of our unqualified and delighted approbation.

Of all quadrupeds, the horse probably presents, in his aspect, the most perfect symmetry of form, and adaptation of part to part ; his arched neck, his flashing eye, his expanded and almost transparent nostril, his flowing mane and his gallant crest, his wavy tail and his powerful quarters—all so many points of grandeur and beauty, that cannot fail of arousing the admiration and sympathies of even the most insensible beholder.

But we would be far from resting our demand for admiration solely upon the form of this noble animal. We even consider that the graces of his external conformation bear but a secondary proportion to those inner qualities of disposition and sagacity, which it but requires a brief acquaintance with this truly splendid creature to appreciate.

We are disposed to rank the horse next to the dog in the scale of intelligence, and would refer any exceptions that may occasionally present themselves, to early bad management, or to *hereditary* vice, originally produced by improper treatment in an ancestor, on one or other side.

We might, however, fill many pages with our heartfelt eulogy, and we therefore reluctantly pause here, hoping that the experience of each and all of our readers will suggest to them an enumeration of this noble servant's valuable qualities, such as we might have entered upon. On the utility of the horse to man it is unnecessary to dilate; his services in war, in the chase, in travel, and last, but by no means least, in AGRICULTURE, are familiar to all, and have been experienced by grateful man in every portion of the known world. *Grateful* man, have we said! Oh! would that *gratitude* for the past labours of the poor horse, when age or disease has incapacitated him from work, constituted the *rule*, and not, as alas! it does, the *exception*.

The generic character of the horse is—twelve fore-teeth, the upper six erect and parallel, lower six more prominent; tusks, solitary and remote; teats inguinal, and two in number; breathes solely through the nostrils, not through the mouth; fights by biting and kicking. The horse belongs to the class mammalia, and genus (ninth of Cuvier's sixth order) pachydermata. Cuvier's characters of this order are as follow:—Skin very thick, whence the name of the order; some of the genera partially without teeth, others with three sorts of teeth; quadrupedal, usually with hooves; toes varying in number; stomach simple; do not ruminate; have no clavicles; are inhabitants of the temperate or torrid zones.

The genus equus contains six species, and is thus defined by Cuvier:—Six incisors in each jaw, two canines, and six molar or cheek teeth, furrowed on both sides, with flat crowns, and several ridges of enamel. Between the cheek and canines is a void space on each side, known to veterinarians as the "Bars." The upper lip is susceptible of considerable motion; eyes large, pupil oblong, ovate, placed laterally; sight extremely good; ears small, pointed,

and erect, possessing great mobility, which renders the hearing very acute; feet, possessing but one apparent toe, covered with a thick hoof; tail furnished with long hair, or with a tuft at its extremity; two teats, or *mammæ*, *inguinal*; stomach simple and membranaceous; intestines and caecum very large.

Much has been written as to the original *habitat*—the first great breeding country of the horse. Arabia and Egypt are the rival claimants; popular opinion has long been in favour of the former, but these pages not being suited to a lengthened discussion of the question, we may just state, that, beyond any doubt, the latter (Egypt) is entitled to the honour. One fact, out of many, may be adduced on either side. In the sacred writings, when describing the very earliest stages of the world, we find the horse in extensive use in Egypt; while, in comparatively modern times, when Mahomet attacked the Koreish, we find not a single *horse* in the entire camp—showing how scarce, even at so late a period, were horses in Arabia, and how plenty, at so early a one, they were in Egypt. There is, of course, no question but that Arabia subsequently became a great horse depot, and that in that country this animal attained to a very high degree of perfection; for, in point of fact, it is to the introduction of Arabian blood that the blood-horses of the British Islands owe their present eminent position, maintaining, as they do, an undisputed superiority over all others.

In pursuing our investigations relative to the horse, it is proper that we furnish, in the first instance, a brief view of the principal breeds or stocks, as at present known, before entering upon either treatment or diseases, and this necessity will become the more obvious, when it will be recollected that, as a matter of course, different varieties present different modifications of form, of disposition, of constitution, and are also suitable, some rather to one purpose, and some rather to another. We shall commence with the exotic varieties, and shall dismiss them with as brief consideration as possible, in order that we may have the more space for full details relative to our own.

We shall begin with the horses of Asia, for the purpose

of presenting the ARAB to our readers in the first rank—a position to which that beautiful horse is justly entitled, let which will be entitled to antiquity of origin.

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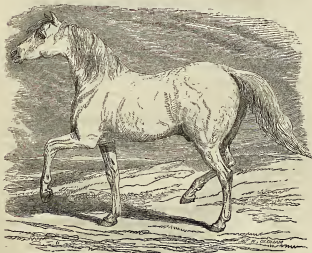
## CHAPTER II.

### THE HORSES OF ASIA.

THE ARABIAN HORSE.—In Arabia the horse runs wild, and is, even in that feral and uncultivated state, a creature of the most exquisite beauty of form, and endowed with the greatest mildness and generosity of disposition. In size these animals are small, usually averaging between thirteen and fourteen hands high. Their colour is usually a dappled grey, but sometimes a dark brown, with short and black mane and tail. They are caught in snares carefully concealed in the sand, by which the feet are entangled, and the terrified horse, falling to the ground, is easily captured. This is the only mode by which they can be taken, their amazing swiftness rendering all idea of chasing them with dogs, or on horseback, utterly out of the question. The wild Arabs are now nearly extinct, the high price given for Arabian horses having induced the natives to draw largely and constantly upon the resources of the desert. To the wandering Arab the horse is of the greatest value. The poorest Bedouin has his steed, which shares with him and his wife and children the shelter of his humble tent, his caresses, and his scanty fare. Oft may the traveller in the desert, on entering within the folds of a tent, behold the interesting spectacle of a magnificent courser extended upon the ground, and some half dozen little dark-skinned, naked urchins, scrambling across her body, or reclining in sleep, some upon her neck, some on her carcass, and others pillowed upon her heels; nor do the children ever experience injury from their gentle playmate; she recognises them as the family of her friend, her patron; and towards them all the natural sweetness of her disposition leans, even to overflowing. The Arabs invariably keep *mares* in preference

to horses ; they find them endure fatigue, and the privations necessarily consequent upon a journey over the desert, better ; a number of them can also be kept together without danger of their quarrelling or injuring each other : on this account it is very difficult, indeed, to induce an Arab to sell his mare. The Arab is particularly careful of his horse's coat ; he washes the legs, tail, and nostrils, regularly, morning and evening, or again after a long ride ; the mane and tail are left in their natural state, and very seldom even combed, lest they might be thinned. The animals are fed only during the night, and from morning to evening they get nothing but one or two drinks of water. From sunrise to sunset they are kept, ready saddled, standing at the door of the tent.

The Arabs carefully preserve the pedigree of their horses,



and divide them into classes, or castes. The most noble of these can, it is said, be traced back to the steeds on which Mahomet and his companions rode the night of the memorable "Hegira." The mare is, as we have stated,

almost unpurchasable, there being, indeed, a law prohibiting her exportation; and the horse is only to be obtained at the most enormous prices—one thousand pounds not being extraordinary, and instances being on record of mares having gone to double that money. We conclude with a brief description of the appearance of the pure Arabian, as found in a domesticated state, and we conceive this the more necessary, as so many spurious Arabs are frequently endeavoured to be palmed upon the unwary or inexperienced. In the preceding page we have given a portrait of the celebrated Wellesley Arabian.

The thoroughbred Arab never exceeds fifteen hands, and rarely fourteen hands and a-half in height. The *skin* is pure black, or blue-black, a circumstance which gives to a white horse of this breed that beautiful silvery grey colour, so indicative of the purest blood; brown, bay, and chestnut, are good colours, but it has long been remarked in India, that *no dark-grey horse* was ever a winner upon the turf.

The head of the pure Arab is light, clean made, wide between the nostrils, broad in the forehead, short and fine in the muzzle, nostrils expanded and transparent, eyes prominent and sparkling, ears small and neatly set on, neck rather short, shoulder high and well thrown back, the shoulder-blade, indeed, inclining backwards nearly forty-five degrees; withers high and arched; legs fine, flat, and small-boned; body somewhat light, but showing substance wherever it is really wanting; the chest, for instance, has frequently been objected to as being too confined, but a less cursory examination will discover, that although apparently narrow, at a front view, it swells out behind the *arm*, to a remarkable degree, thus affording ample room for the play of the lungs. The hind quarters are set on somewhat obliquely; but from the extreme hardness of the bone, which enables it to endure the additional strain thus induced, this formation, far from detracting from the animal's strength, rather has a contrary effect, and to this peculiarity of conformation is the extraordinary speed possessed by the Arabian horse mainly attributable. As a racer, on a regular course, the Arab has never, to my knowledge,

been afforded a fair opportunity of competing with our own blood-horses ; such as have been thus tried having always been animals of an inferior stamp, and the natural consequence has been, their invariable defeat. It is possible that we may have to allude to this fact in another place. We now turn our attention to the

**PERSIAN HORSE.**—In general appearance this horse resembles the Arab, and though, in most respects, less esteemed than that animal, he is in some points his superior. This horse stands somewhat taller than the Arab, is full of bone, and very fast ; that peculiarity, "ewe-neck," so indicative of very high breeding, is very common. Like the Arab, these horses are fed, cleaned, and watered, only at sunrise and sunset ; their food is coarse and scant. Hay is unknown as a horse-diet in Persia ; the usual diet is barley and chopped straw, which, when the horse is picquetted, is put into a nose-bag ; but, when fed in a stable, is put into a lozenge-shaped hole, left for that purpose in the mud-built wall, much higher up, however, than our mangers usually are. His sole bedding consists of his dung, which becomes pulverized by the day's sun, and at night is spread out under him ; his body, however, being invariably covered with clothing, varied in quality according to the season, never touches this bedding, which therefore can benefit the horse only by its softness. Sir John Malcolm, in his "Travels in Persia," has drawn a graphic picture of the mode in which the Persian horses are stabled at night, and of the uproarious scene of combat and confusion which sometimes takes place among them. We regret that our space will not permit of our extracting his sketch.

**THE TARTARIAN HORSE** resembles the Persian in his swiftness ; but there the resemblance, to a considerable extent, ceases. These horses are heavy-headed, very low in the shoulder, awkwardly made, and, altogether, ill-looking brutes. In the wilds of Tartary, however, are still some coursers to be met with which are yet ignorant of the spur, and upon whose neck bridle has never yet hung, whose forms would almost give the lie to our description ; and in Tartaria Minor, or Little Tartary, the natives possess a

breed so highly esteemed, that they have entered into a compact not to sell any of them to strangers or foreigners. The Tartars eat the flesh of their horses, and use the milk of the mare, from which they also make excellent cheese. From mares' milk the Bashkirs make a kind of wine, called "*Kumiss*," the nutritious properties of which are of a very high order. An anecdote is related of a certain nobleman who laboured under a complication of chronic disorders, who, by direction of his physician, travelled to Tartary for the sole purpose of trying the effect of this liquor: at starting, he was so weak that it was necessary to lift him into his carriage, and after a sojourn of six weeks only, in Tartary, he returned home perfectly cured; and so fresh and plump, that his intimate friends were at first sight unable to recognise him.

THE TURKOMAN HORSE is a variety of the Tartar, but superior. It is held in high estimation, and will, even in Persia, frequently fetch so high a price as from one to two hundred pounds. The average height of these horses is fifteen hands, and, in their general shape and appearance, they bear no distant resemblance to a well-bred English carriage horse. They are possessed of very considerable speed, but are not *enduring*, from being *too small in the barrel*, and too leggy. This breed is one of those occasionally used by crafty Asiatics to be palmed off on English speculators as the Arabian.

THE TURKISH HORSE is of slender make, carries his head high, is full of life and fire, and possesses a most docile and affectionate disposition. In his form and character he demonstrates his descent, viz., a cross between Persian and Arabian, or perhaps Barb. The last-mentioned horse shall be described in his proper place. The Turkish horses have long been celebrated for their docility and gentleness, and they are treated with the utmost kindness by their masters and grooms. As an instance of the extreme partiality with which the Turks regard their horses, the following anecdote may not be out of place:—Theophilactus, patriarch of Constantinople, was so passionately fond of horses, that he kept two thousand of his own, fed every day chiefly on saffron and Pistachio nuts. One Holy Thursday, while he



was officiating pontifically in the church at Constantinople, word was brought him that a favourite Arabian mare had foaled : he immediately left the service, ran to his stables, and did not return to finish the sacred ceremonies, until he had given the necessary order for the treatment of both mare and foal.

The tail of the horse is, in Turkey, regarded as a mark of dignity, and is, both in that country and in Persia, employed as an emblem of station, and princes measure their rank by the number of tails they carry. The origin of this custom is as follows :—The Turkish army at one time lost its standard in a battle, and a gallant leader, in order to inspire the faltering spirits of his men, cut off the tail from a slain charger, and hoisting it aloft on the point of a javelin, rallied his soldiers, once again brought them to the charge, and gained a victory over the enemy. From this he received a corresponding military distinction, whence originated “Pachas of Tails.” Those of the highest ranks are invested with *three* tails.

THE HORSES OF HINDOSTAN.—The climate of India does not appear to be congenial to the constitution of the horse, and that animal is invariably found to degenerate, unless the breed be, from time to time, carefully regenerated and sustained by judicious crossing. The most *genuine* native breed, or, in other words, that which has been least affected by *improvement*, is called the “*Tazee*.”

The Tazee is, as ordinarily known, a small, ill-made, and ugly beast—equally deficient in spirit and in form. This is not, however, the character of the original race, accurately described by Colonel Hamilton Smith as a bold, spirited, and handsome animal, and so fiery as to require a bold rider. Of this race are the “Serissahs,” of the North Bahar, of which upwards of twenty thousand are sold at the annual fairs. Between the Tazee and the Persian a mixed race is bred, called in India the Maginnie. There are several other Hindoo breeds ; but as it is a matter of notoriety that not one remains the same for three generations—being constantly crossed and re-crossed—it appears to me unnecessary to enumerate them. We may, however, just name a few of the best known :—

Such are the *Takan*—strong, powerful animals ; natural amblers, and hence in much esteem for the use of ladies.

*Folaree* breed.—A variety of *Takan* ; tall, but spiritless.

*Cutch*.—Remarkable for the suddenness with which the withers drop, as if a portion of the vertical ridge of the spine had been cut away ; hence difficult to fit with a saddle.

*Dattycarr*.—Superior in blood to any of the preceding ; usually dun-coloured, striped like a zebra. When thus marked, it competes in value with the Arabian.

We have now devoted sufficient attention to the Asiatic varieties ; let us next consider the African.

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### CHAPTER III.

#### THE AFRICAN RACES.

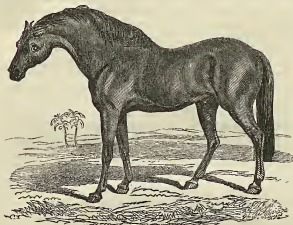
THE principal African race is that known under the name of *BARB*. This horse exceeds the Arabian in stature, and is remarkable for the height and fulness of his shoulders, drooping of the haunches, and roundness of the barrel. The Barb does not fetch so high a price in his own country as the Arab, and he is hence frequently imported, and fraudulently passed off on purchasers as that animal.

On the opposite page we give a portrait of that remarkable horse, the Godolphin Barb ; sometimes erroneously called the Godolphin Arabian.

Amongst the most excellent of the African varieties of horse, we may name the celebrated "*Shrubat-ul-reech*," or "*Drinkers of the wind*," in possession of the Maugrabin tribes, shaped like greyhounds, wiry, and fleshless. Mr. Davidson relates of one of these having performed a journey of sixty miles, under a burning sun, at the hottest period of an African day, without the rider once drawing bridle. The Arabs ride *mares* only, for they chiefly rely on stealing unawares upon their foes ; the Africans rely on force alone, and consequently ride the *horse*, on account of his superior power. Were the Arabs to ride horses, the moment they

came within *scent* of the hostile camp, their steeds would betray everything by their neighing.

Towards the central parts of Africa we find the BORNOU race, extolled by Mr. Sully as "possessed of the qualities



of the Arabian, with the beauty of the Barb; they are fine in shoulder, and of general elegance of form." The horses of NUBIA are stated by the celebrated traveller, Bruce, to be far superior to the Arabian, and trace their pedigrees from five stocks; all the horses ridden by Mahomet and his four companions—Abubeker, Omar, Osman, and Ali—in their flight on the night since designated as "Al Hegira."

The little kingdom of Dongola, or Donkala, possesses a remarkable breed of horses of a large size, their chief characteristics being great shortness of body, length of neck, height of crest, and a beautiful forehead. Bosman pronounces them to be "the most beautiful in the world." These horses have been imported into our islands, but their progeny have never in any instance turned out well—perhaps from want of judgment in the selection of their mates.

Of the horses of Egypt Proper, it is unnecessary to say much; Egypt has long lost its character as a breeding

country, and its horses are deservedly held much inferior to those of either Persia, Barbary, or Arabia. What they were, in docility at all events, some centuries ago, may be interesting to learn, and we accordingly insert the following description, from the pen of the well-known Baumgusten, with which also we shall close our account of the African varieties. We may remark that Baumgusten was a witness of the scene which he describes :—

“In the year 1507, the Sultan of Egypt made ostentation of his magnificence to the Turkish ambassador. There were sixty thousand Mamelukes, in the same uniform, assembled in a spacious plain, in which there were three heaps of sand, fifty paces distant, in each a spear erected, with a mark to shoot at, and the like over opposite them, with space betwixt, sufficient for six horses to run abreast ; here the youngest Mamelukes, upon their horses, running at full speed, gave wonderful proofs of their skill. Some shot arrows backward and forward ; others, in the midst of their race, alighted three times, and, their horses still running, remounted, and hit the mark nevertheless ; others hit the same, standing upon their horses then running ; others three times unbent their bows, and thrice again bent them, whilst their horses galloped, and did not miss the mark ; neither did others, who, in the middle of their race, alighted down on either side and again mounted ; nor they who in their swiftest course leaped, and turned themselves backwards on their horses, and then, their horses still running, turned themselves forward. There were some who, while their horses galloped, ungirt them thrice, each time shooting, then again girding their saddles, and yet never missed the mark ; some sat in their saddles, leaped backwards out of them, and, turning over their heads, settled themselves again in their seats, and shot, as the former, three times ; others laid themselves backward on their running horses, and taking their tails, put them in their mouths, and yet took an undeviating aim in shooting ; some, after every shot, drew out their swords and flourished them about their heads, and again sheathed them ; others sat between three swords on their right and as many on their left, thinly clothed, so that without great care every

motion would wound them, yet, before and behind them, touched the mark; one stood upon two horses running very swiftly, his feet loose, and shot also at once three arrows before, and again three behind him; another, sitting on a horse, neither bridled nor saddled, as he came at every mark, arose and stood upon his feet, and on both hands hitting the mark, sat down again three times; a third, sitting on the bare horse, when he came to the mark, lay upon his back and lifted up his leg, and yet missed not his shot. One of them was killed by a fall, and two much wounded in these feats of activity."

Designing to leave the horses of our own country for the last, as they will demand our more particular consideration, we now turn to those of America.

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## CHAPTER IV.

### THE HORSES OF AMERICA.

IN many parts of the southern portion of this vast continent, are still to be met with innumerable herds of wild horses, and many such are also to be found about the back settlements of its northern portion; both, however, evidently the descendants of domestic horses, that accidental causes have driven to a feral condition. These herds appear to act in admirable concert, and by their united force defy the attacks of the various ferocious animals who share with them the possession of the wilderness. Nor are they formidable only to these equally savage denizens of the prairie: the traveller, if incautious in approaching them, will too dearly rue his temerity or ignorance, and a meeting with such a herd of untamed coursers has often proved to be anything but desirable. When a traveller with laden horses encounters one of these wild herds, even should he personally escape attack, his horses, if they can by any means shake off their burdens, will break away, and join their fortunes with those of their emancipated brethren. When it is deemed desirable to capture these horses, the

natives employ a long leathern noose called the *lasso*. They never take the *mares*, nor even ride them ; and it is related of an Englishman, attempting once to do so in that country, being hooted and pelted by the natives to such an extent as narrowly to escape with life. The horses of North America are somewhat more hardy, more inured to slavery, and are much valued by the Indian natives, who use them in hunting, in war, and in travel. The acquisition of the horse must have proved a great boon to the wandering savage, and he is recognized as such, to so great an extent, indeed, that the felony of the horses of a hostile tribe is conceived to be as heroic an action as the taking of their masters' scalps.

The horses of the *Canadas* are, as might be expected, principally of French descent, and from this stock have sprung many of the celebrated American "trotting phenomena." The horses of the United States are crossed with a great variety of breeds, amongst which the *English* is predominant ; for with all Brother Jonathan's good opinion of himself, he is, to a great extent, still impressed with the superiority of articles coming from the "old country," and perhaps he is not so very far astray in his idea. The Americans are now exerting themselves strenuously for the improvement of their horses ; and, amongst other efforts, we are not to overlook the establishment of horse-races in various states, particularly in the southern ones ; and in these have been, as a matter of course, adopted the customs common to the turf of Britain.

The horses of the West Indian Islands not unnaturally present themselves to our notice in connexion with those of America. They are chiefly the breeds of the states to which each island more particularly belongs. The horses of Cuba especially betray, in a manner too apparent for any mistake, their Spanish origin ; and those of the British colonies, on the other hand, present marked evidence of owing much of their blood to the mother-country.

The Americans have, from time to time, imported first-rate English blood for the improvement of their stock, and the progeny of many horses of celebrity is yet to be met with in many portions of "the States," especially Vir-

ginia, Kentucky, and the Jerseys. Amongst these were, recently, "Shark," a horse seldom equalled, and decidedly the star of his day; and "Tallyho," the son of "High-flier," to whom the horses of the last-named states owe the best portion of their blood.

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## CHAPTER V.

EUROPEAN HORSES—AS PARTICULARLY REPRESENTED BY THOSE OF THE BRITISH ISLANDS.

WE now arrive at that portion of our subject which will probably possess more of interest for the reader than any of the preceding chapters—the history of the horse in the British islands, and his progression, alteration, and improvement, from the earliest periods of which any authentic records remain, up to the present time.

The first mention that we meet with of the history of the horses of these islands, is the era of the invasion of England by the Romans, under the command of Julius Cæsar; and they are mentioned by him in his "Commentaries" in laudatory terms, speaking highly, at the same time, of the skill displayed by those who managed them. These observations prove that the horse must have been long familiar to the natives of Great Britain, as when in a state of barbarism, almost amounting to savageness, they had acquired so perfect a mastery over it. Even at this time, too, it would appear that the Britons had commenced the use of gorgeous and ornamental housings, and military trappings. Here, however, we find ourselves at fault, and are unable to form even a remote guess at the source whence our ancestors derived this valuable animal, or point out any modern variety of horse as having sprung from, or as retaining any resemblance to, the primitive stock. Some have referred to the rough and diminutive shelties of Scotland, to the *hobbies* of Ireland, or the mountain ponies of Wales and Cornwall; but if so, these animals must have greatly altered in form and stature, for, however well, as Pennant so justly observes, "they may

answer the purposes of these countries—they could never have been equal to the work of war.” We conceive the opinion of the late Mr. Youatt to approach the truth more nearly than any with which we have met; he conceives the horse to be “then, as ever, the creature of the country in which he lives. With short fare, and exposed to the rigour of the seasons, he was probably the little hardy thing which we yet see him; but in the marshes of the Nen and the Witham, and on the borders of the Tee and the Clyde, there would be as much proportionate development of frame and strength as we find at the present day.” It is certain that the horses of Britain, in the time of Cæsar, were powerful and active, for the war-chariots were of a heavy and clumsy description; and the roads, if roads they could be called, unformed, and only passable by the exercise of no ordinary power; that these animals were valuable, we learn from the fact, that Cæsar carried back several to Rome; and from the circumstance that they were for a considerable time afterwards in much esteem throughout various parts of the Roman empire. Of the numbers of this animal then kept in Britain we may form some idea, from the circumstance that the British king, Cassibellan, in disbanding the main portion of his army, *retained* four thousand horse, for the purposes of forage, and harassing the Romans. About this period the Romans, finding it necessary to employ active measures in order to maintain a secure position in the country they had just conquered, deemed it advisable to garrison it strongly, and, consequently, acting on this resolution, they sent into Britain a considerable force, amongst which was a powerful body of cavalry: this, of course, gave rise to a union of the foreign breeds with those of the country into which they were introduced, and this was, in all probability, the first cross to which our British horses had been subjected; nor was this cross to be regarded merely as one with the *Roman* horse. That powerful nation had already established intimate relations with their various neighbours, and horses from many different parts of the then known world, must have formed the component parts of the Roman cavalry. Whether any *improvement* in our



British horses is to be attributed to the Roman conquest is, however, at best questionable. The Roman cavalry could never have been very respectable, when a deformity, in the case of Caesar's own horse, which seems to have possessed some elongation of the hooves of the fore feet, was made a subject of rapturous applause, and was deemed such a perfection as to call for the tribute of a public statue; nor were the Romans, at this period, by any means the equals of the Greeks in the art of war, or in the appliances they were able to bring into the field of battle. That the horses of Greece were, at this time, superior to those of Britain, is just possible; but when we read the many absurd treatises on the subject, and when we so plainly perceive the predominance of the spirit of copying, and the blindness which existed to the necessity of improvement, we may well doubt the fact—in reference to the Romans, I think we may discard doubt altogether. The Anglo-Saxon conquest, doubtless, introduced a variety of other breeds of horses into England, some of which, especially the Frisonic and Danish, were animals of no inconsiderable beauty and stature, and consequently, well calculated to improve our own.

From the Roman invasion until several centuries afterwards, we do not find any record, or any mention of the horse in Britain, until the year 631, when we find the commencement of the use of the *saddle* mentioned by the Venerable Bede, who states that prelates and other dignified persons, who had, until then, been obliged to go on foot, now rode on horseback. It is further stated, that the dignitaries of the church always used the *mare*, and not the *horse*, as a mark of their humility.

King Alfred, of learned and pious memory, the hero of many a tale of valour and romance, exerted himself in the laudable work of improving the indigenous breeds of horses, and that these intentions should be the better carried out, an office was created for the occasion, answering to our modern "Master of the Horse;" this officer was called *Horsethane*. Athelstane, son of Alfred, who reigned at 950 years after the landing of the Romans, devoted much attention to the subject of improvement;

and so jealous was he of neighbouring nations profiting by his exertions, that he prohibited strictly the exportation of horses, unless designed as presents. These enactments furnish the inference, that our horses were then valuable, and that their value was duly appreciated by foreigners.

Although Athelstane did not choose that foreigners should improve their horses by his means, he appears to have had no objection to avail himself of whatever advantages they possessed in this respect, for we hear of him accepting a present from Hugh Le Grand, King of France, father of the celebrated Hugh Capet, and the then suitor of his sister, Ethilda, daughter of Edward, subsequently Athelstane's brother-in-law. Mr. Youatt has stated this present to have come from *Hugh Capet* himself; and, from the reading of the paragraph, we suspect that he derived his information from the much prior work of our own personal and respected friend, Captain Thos. Brown. Both gentlemen, however, were, in this instance, incorrect. Athelstane valued these and other presents of foreign horses highly; and in his will he made a careful testamentary disposition of them, particularizing the several presents, "Those given him by Thurbrand, together with the white horses given him by Liefbrand." These persons were *Saxons*, so it is probable that these were Saxon horses; but, besides these, we find it related that "sundry princes sought his alliance and friendship, and sent him rich presents, precious stones, perfumes, and the *finest horses*, with *golden furniture*." The horses sent this monarch by the French king are stated to have been "*German running horses*."

Athelstane reigned about A.D. 930, and we find, in a document bearing date A.D. 1000 (quoted by Captain Brown, as also by Mr. Youatt), a curious account of the value of horses in those days. If a horse were destroyed, or lost through negligence, the compensation to which the owner was declared to be legally entitled, was thirty shillings; a mare or colt, twenty shillings; a wild, or untrained mare, sixty pence; a mule, or ass, twelve shillings; an ox, thirty pence; a cow, twenty-four pence; a pig, eight pence; and a MAN, *one pound*!—a strange valuation, truly, as placing the value of human life one-third inferior

to that of a horse. The Anglo-Saxons calculated at forty-eight shillings to the pound—equal, in silver, to about three pounds of our own money; and *five pence* were equivalent to a shilling. Howell *dha* (or the good), who lived a short time previous, had enacted laws restricting the price of horses, as well as establishing certain regulations relative to this description of traffic, designed to prevent *fraud*: so early had *jockeying* not only commenced, but become notorious in horse-dealing.

William, sometimes called "*The Conqueror*," brought many horses with him from *Normandy*, and thus contributed, in no small degree, not only to the number of varieties known amongst us, but to the positive improvement of those which we already possessed. It is probable, also, that the horses imported thither by William were not confined to the French varieties alone, but were brought from other countries also; for his own favourite charger, ridden by him at the celebrated and eventful battle of Hastings, was a Spanish horse; and it is the general impression of historians, that to his *cavalry* William was mainly indebted for his success on that memorable occasion. Roger de Belesme, also, afterwards created Earl of Shrewsbury by the victorious monarch, introduced several Spanish horses into the kingdom, especially into his own estate of Powisland. These are noticed by Giraldus Cambrensis, and their excellent qualities are celebrated in verse by Drayton, the poet; neither of these parties, however, has favoured us with any description of a character calculated to prove intelligible to a modern reader. Beranger, on what authority I know not, describes these horses as having been of a class peculiarly adapted to the "purposes of war, and the exhibitions of public assemblies, of which horses are always a very essential and ornamental part; for it is not known that at this time, nor till a much later period, that horse-races were introduced into England, although this agreeable and useful diversion, if confined within certain regulations, might have been cultivated with great propriety among a people fond and proud of their horses, and that at a time when bodily exercises alone were the amusements of all sorts of men; and especially as the English had oppor-

tunities of being instructed in them by the Romans, who generally brought their own customs with them wherever they came, and left their impression behind them when they departed. We may, therefore, reasonably conclude, that they were either ignorant of these sports, or, what is more likely, preferred the parade and magnificence of tilts and tournaments, in which the strength, activity, spirit, and beauty of the horse, as well as the skill and courage of the rider, could be more usefully employed, and more gracefully displayed."

It may be interesting to our *agricultural readers* to learn that, until a comparatively recent period, we find no record of the horse having been employed to draw the plough, oxen alone being used for that purpose; and we find a law enacted in or about the latter end of the twelfth century, *prohibiting the use of horses in the plough*. This, we think, proves that some change in agricultural matters was even then commencing; and we have likewise, on a piece of tapestry, woven in this reign, of that description known as "Bayeux tapestry," a representation of a man driving a horse in a *harrow*. This is, I think, the earliest notice which we have of horses having been employed in field labour.

In the reign of Henry I., in the year 1121, two fine horses of Arabian or Barbary blood were imported into Britain; one was introduced to the court of Henry of England; the other was presented to the Church of St. Andrews, in Scotland, by King Alexander I. Col. Smith (*Nat. Lib.*) expresses it as his opinion, that both these horses were *Barbs*, and procured from Morocco, through the medium of the Jewish dealers. Mr. Youatt says, that some pretensions to the derivation of a breed of modern racing-horses from this stock have been put forward, but that they are devoid of foundation. In the reign of Henry II., as appears from a curious and scarce Latin tract, such public exhibitions as tournaments and horse-races became comparatively common. They are spoken of by Fitzstephen, the monk, in his description of London; and his descriptions are written with an animation that seems little accordant with the gravity of his profession. These exhibitions were then held in *Smith-*

field, which appears to have been a resort of merchants and others, and an extensive horse-mart. The name *Smith-field* is a corruption of *smooth field* (*planus campus*). Fitzstephen says—"Without one of the gates of the city is a certain plane, or *smooth*, both in name and situation. Every Friday, except some festival intervene, there is a fine sight of horses brought to be sold. Many come of the city to buy or look on—to wit, earls, barons, knights, and citizens. It is a pleasant thing to behold the horses there, all gay and sleek, moving up and down; some on the amble and some on the trot—which latter pace, although rougher to the rider, is better suited to men who bear arms. There, also, are colts, yet ignorant of the bridle, which prance and bound, and give early signs of spirit and courage; there, also, are managed war-horses, of elegant shape, full of fire, and giving every proof of a generous and noble temper; horses, also, for the *cart, dray, and plough*, are to be found here."—*Leland's Itinerary*, vol. viii.

The period of the crusades now followed, and these mad enterprises were the cause of much diminution in the number of our horses, though, I think, of some improvement also. Thousands of noble steeds were brought to the East by their infatuated masters, many of whom perished on the field, or, if spared life, were usually so poor as to be scarcely able to defray the expenses attendant upon their own return, far less to bring home their horses. That some valuable horses were at this time brought to England from the East there can, however, be little doubt, and many legendary tales of the Arabian steeds of Richard the Lion-hearted, still exist. Amongst others, I may mention an old ballad, which runs—

"In this world they hadde no pere,  
Dromedary and destriere,  
Steed, rabyte, ne camele;  
Goeth none so swifte, without fayle."

This king also purchased (1185) fifteen brood-mares, for which he paid the sum of two pounds twelve and sixpence, and subsequently distributed to his tenants at four shillings each—a circumstance indicative, at once, of the king's de-

sire of improvement, and of his subjects' welfare, as also of, even taking into consideration the difference of currency, the cheapness of the article.

## CHAPTER VI.

### EUROPEAN HORSES—CONTINUED.

PERHAPS the only redeeming point in the character of King John, was the attention he paid to the improvement of our native breeds of horses. We find it recorded of him that he imported one hundred choice stallions from *Flanders*—a most important improvement, as being eminently calculated to raise our *agricultural* horses to such a standard of power and vigour as was requisite for field labour and for draught; and, in the same reign—of course in consequence of the encouragement given, and the example set by the monarch—we are told that a private gentleman, named Amphilil Till, possessed a noble breed of horses, but falling under the displeasure of his capricious prince, was *imprisoned*, and condemned to pay a fine for his ransom—a fine, also, characteristic of the royal passion, viz., *ten horses*, each worth thirty marks, which is equal to about £300 of our present currency. When an almost absolute prince possessed so strong a passion for an individual pursuit, and was so little scrupulous in the means he employed for the gratification of any of his whims, it is not to be wondered at that his personal stud was both numerous and excellent.

The next period in which we find any particular mention of horses, is about a century afterwards, when Edward II., in the second year of his reign, gave a commission to one Bynde Bonaventure and his brother, for twenty war-horses and twelve draught-horses, to be purchased in Lombardy (*pro viginti dextrariis et duodecim jumentis emendis in partibus Lombardiæ*), requiring all his friends and loving subjects to assist in carrying the commission into effect. John de Trokelow, who wrote the annals of this prince in

1307, bears strong testimony to his love of horses, and zeal for their improvement. Mr. Youatt has quoted, in this instance, from Captain Brown, and stated the number at *thirty* war-horses; hence we thought it best to supply the original passage of the old historian, whence both might have derived their information, especially as we find Col. H. Smith, in the "Naturalists' Library," falling into the same mistake.

Edward III., whose genius appears naturally to have been of a warlike character, was devotedly attached to tournaments, and other similar shows of a military description; hence his warm encouragement of horse-breeding. Among other instances of his zeal in this respect, we may be permitted to mention his purchasing fifty Spanish chargers, at a price of one thousand marks. We also find him indebted to Count Hainault in the sum of twenty-five thousand florins, for horses which he had purchased; as also the same prince, sending to France for four *chargers* or great horses (*pro quatuor dextrariis seu magnis equis*). Edward was making preparations at this time for a war with Scotland, and, accordingly, when a German dealer had imported some Flemish horses on speculation, he was only permitted to re-embark them on condition of not taking them to Scotland. Colonel Smith terms this want of liberality, but I think, had he reflected on all the circumstances, he would have merely regarded it as a necessary piece of policy. Our modern readers will, perhaps, learn with some surprise that all these war-horses (*dextrarii*) were taught to *amble*; and in the account of Edward's disbursements, for the horses he obtained from France, we find one item of *trammels*, for the purpose of *teaching horses to amble*; indeed, the obvious derivation of the word *trammels* is from the Italian *tramenare*, to *wriggle*—a term very expressive of the motion called *ambling*. This prince had also many *running horses*, which were probably used for hunting and racing, being of a lighter and more active form than those called *dextrarii*. The price of a *running horse* was, at that time, £3 6s. 8d. This prince also crossed the heavier with the lighter breeds, and thus produced a noble race of horses for the

chase—a pursuit to which he was devotedly attached. We may add, that it was during this reign that horses were first classified according to their different qualifications and uses.

There was, in these early times, one circumstance which greatly tended to keep up too great a degree of bulk in the horse, and, consequently, to retard his improvement, viz., the mode in which contests were usually decided, the old system of hand-to-hand combat requiring the use of ponderous armour—an objection not removed until the introduction of the use of *gunpowder*, which was invented by a monk of Cologne, named Swarth, about the year 1330.

From this, period the British breed of horses steadily improved, and became known and valued everywhere. As a matter of course, they speedily became a subject of considerable traffic, and this traffic soon led to frauds on the parts of dealers; hence we find Richard II. enacting certain laws, with a view to the prevention of dishonest speculation; and, accordingly, we find that prince, in 1386, issuing an edict to regulate the prices of the different descriptions of horses then in use. From this edict, as being principally directed to the counties of Lincoln, Cambridge, and York, we can perceive that they were then the principal breeding districts of England; and it is scarcely necessary to remind our readers that the last-named county continues to the present day so famed for its commerce in this description of article, and for the cunning of its dealers, as to have passed into a proverb—few but are familiar with the expression, “To come Yorkshire over me.” The civil wars which arose at or about this time, by throwing the kingdom into confusion, and setting one portion of the inhabitants against the other, as a matter of course not only checked the improvement of the horse, but caused our breeds to retrograde; and, accordingly, Philip de Comyn or Comines, speaks in very disparaging terms of the English army with which Edward IV. disembarked in France.

The only notice of the horse, during the reign of Richard III., that we have been able to obtain is, that



in it *post-horses* and *stages* were first established (A.D. 1483).

Henry VII. encouraged the breeding of valuable horses; and it is related by Polydore Virgil that the English used to keep large herds of them in their pastures and common fields, and that when the harvests were gathered in, the cattle of different owners fed promiscuously together; hence the *horses* had to be emasculated, in order to avoid disorder—a practice further rendered necessary, in consequence of an act passed in this reign, that no *entire* horse should be let out into any pasture. This seems to have given rise to our modern appellation of *stallion*, or *stalled one* (*equus ad stabulum*), by contraction, *stallum*, then *stallion*. This king also prohibited the exportation of stallions, and even of such mares as were under two years old, and not over the value of 6s. 8d. By means of this arbitrary edict, which, recollect, it is not our intention to defend, the best animals were kept in the kingdom, and only the comparatively worthless permitted to leave it. This much, however, must be stated in vindication of these acts of parliament—that at this time the exportation of valuable horses had become excessive; thus unnecessarily enhancing the price of such as remained. Indeed this is recited in the preamble to the act, but seems strangely overlooked by Colonel Smith, who states the enactments to be *unintelligible*. It should also be added, that these enactments were only aimed at *dealers*. Any person might take out of the country horses of what quality he pleased, provided that he made oath they were, *bona fide*, for his own use, and not for sale.

Henry VIII. paid particular regard to the raising of a good breed of horses, and did not hesitate about forming stringent laws in order to carry his intentions into effect. Some modern writers have censured this king very severely for these enactments, and have made them an occasion for a general review of the least amiable points of his character. It is not for us to defend Henry VIII. as a *king*, but we cannot avoid defending the very politic enactments which he promulgated, with a view to the improvement of horses in these islands; true, they were arbitrary enough, but

those were arbitrary times—times that will not admit of being judged of by comparison with the present. It is well known to all breeders, that in order to produce a large and vigorous progeny, it is essential to select parents, on both sides, of the most desirable form; and when it is wished to raise the general character of the horses of any district or country, there could be no better or more certain plan adopted, with such a view, than the prohibiting of all *inferior* descriptions for breeding. Such was the course adopted by this king, and a law was accordingly passed, directing that every brood-mare should be, at least, fourteen hands high; and so marked was the effect produced by this statute, that Carew, in his "History of Cornwall," suggests that to this was attributable the almost total loss of the small horses, formerly so common in that part of England and in Wales—a loss which Carew regrets, but which has been amply replaced by a race of large and serviceable animals.

There were further enactments passed in this reign, all with an evident view to the attainment of a large and powerful breed, but some very singular in their character. For example: every archbishop and duke was obliged, under heavy penalties, to keep seven entire horses, each above three years old, and not less than fourteen hands high; each parson holding a benefice to the value of £100 yearly, or a layman, *whose wife should wear any French hood or bonnet*, was obliged, under the penalty of £20, to keep *one such horse*. The obvious reason of enjoining entire horses to be kept, was for the promotion of breeding; and with a consideration that was hardly to be expected from so peremptory a king, the rich and noble were alone compelled to keep *stallions*, their *keep* being so much more expensive, while the humbler classes might keep such mares and geldings as they thought proper—the latter possessing the advantage of being able to be freely turned out to grass.

It being found that the nature of the pasture in some counties, as Cambridge, Huntingdon, Suffolk, Northampton, Lincoln, and Norfolk, was unsuited to the raising of horses of the required bulk, a statute, Henry VIII., 32,

cap. 13, was passed, excepting these counties from the operation of the preceding law, and reducing the required standard to thirteen hands. In the 32nd of Henry VIII., cap. 13, sec. 9, *infected horses* were also prohibited from being turned into public pastures.

It was in this reign that the celebrated assembly, consequent upon Henry's meeting with Francis, King of France, in "The Field of the Cloth of Gold," took place—an interview that has since been made the subject of a splendid fiction by Mr. James, the well-known novelist; and on this occasion the English monarch is stated to have done his *devoir* as a bold and brave knight should. There are still extant some curious particulars of the horses of this reign, taken from "The Regulations and Establishments of Algernon Percy, the fifth Earl of Northumberland," bearing date 1512, which have, however, been so frequently quoted, that we, being limited in space, conceive it unnecessary to occupy our pages with them.

It is a fact, and one much to be regretted, that all King Henry's enactments appear to have fallen short of the mark, and to have produced only temporary, and not permanent improvement; for when Queen Elizabeth called out the entire strength of her cavalry to oppose the Spaniards, she could only muster a force of three thousand mounted men-at-arms. That there were still, however, fine horses in the kingdom cannot be questioned, for Ulysses Aldrovand says that there were so, but principally in possession of the nobles. Some have referred this failure to the tyrannical character of Henry's enactments; but I think that it is far more likely to have been owing to the superiority the British horses rapidly attained during the middle portion of his reign, which caused them to be eagerly purchased up, and taken out of the kingdom by foreign *grandeės* for purposes of state—a circumstance much promoted by the introduction into the kingdom, at the time, of *Italian farriers* and *foreign grooms*, who, of course, had the welfare of their native country far more at heart than they could have had that of a foreign one.

Edward VI. reigned long enough to perform one stringent act in favour of the horse: he made horse-stealing

a felony, and that *without benefit of clergy* (1 Ed. VI., cap. 12).

Queen Elizabeth was fond of horses, and she was herself a bold and spirited horsewoman, riding to the hounds even at the advanced age of seventy. In the commencement of her reign (8 Elizabeth, cap. 12), she repealed the statutes enacted by her father, as to the standard size of horses to be kept in certain English counties. In the twenty-second year of this reign, *coaches* were first introduced, A.D. 1580, by Fitz Allen, Earl of Arundel. Up to that period, the first ladies of the land had no other mode of conveyance than to ride behind a gentleman on the pillion, and even the queen rode thus behind her Master-of-Horse when she went in state to St. Paul's. The introduction of coaches tended much to improve the breed of horses, as, up to that period, slow, heavy brutes were preferred; and this may therefore be regarded as one of the most important epochs in the history of the horse in Britain. The use of coaches also gave rise to an increased demand, and at length, so great was the number of horses thus employed, that a bill was actually introduced into the House of Lords "to restrain the excessive and superfluous use of coaches." The lords, fortunately for the improvement of horses, did not entertain the bill, but desired the attorney-general to inspect the former statutes for the promotion of the breed of horses, and to introduce some other bill in its stead. It is, however, certain that some bill was introduced which had a tendency to revive the old practice of riding on horseback, in preference to being conveyed in coaches; or else that some of the old school still persisted in keeping up antiquated usages, for we find that in the reign of James I. the judges rode on horseback to the courts of law in Westminster Hall.

Gunpowder having now taken place of the heavy armour and the lance, a lighter and more active breed of horse began to be cultivated, and when armour continued at all to be used, it was of a light and partial description. Of the effects of the change upon the character of our horses, we can readily judge from the expressions of Sir John Smythe, who wrote in the year after the memorable attempt of the

Spanish armada. He says—"Their horsemen also serving on horseback with lances, or any other weapon, they think very well armed with some kind of head-piece, a collar, and a deformed, light-bellied beast." Such was the origin of our light and fleet breeds of horses, which became as necessary as the weight of the rider decreased, as were the more heavy and powerful, so long as the ancient ponderous armour continued to be worn.

In Elizabeth's reign, tournaments continued in high repute; and in that of James I. of England and VI. of Scotland, every description of horsemanship received, if possible, still greater encouragement. Horse-racing now became extensively cultivated and promoted. This prince had formerly established this sport in Scotland, but unfortunately his system was *wrong*, consisting almost wholly of matches against time, or trots of long-continued endurance. Croydon and Enfield chases were his favourite courses. It would appear that James bore in mind the old legend of the Arabian steed formerly presented by King Alexander to St. Andrew's, for he at once set about introducing Arab blood into the kingdom; and his first essay was the celebrated MARKHAM ARABIAN, for which he gave to a merchant of that name the very sporting price of *five hundred pounds*—no ordinary figure in those days, but equal to at least two thousand pounds of present currency. This is the first *truly authentic* Arabian that ever reached England. What the exact characters of this horse were, we possess no means of ascertaining; but the Duke of Newcastle, considered the greatest judge of horse-flesh of his day, conceived such a dislike to him, that, in his "Treatise on Horsemanship"—a book, by the way, displaying much judgment—he describes him as a little, bony, bay horse, of ordinary shape, and almost worthless; and it is certain that it was found that, after training, he was unable to run.

The failure of this first attempt to introduce foreign stock did not, however, discourage James: he had conceived an idea which was not to be lightly removed, and he accordingly purchased, from a Mr. Place, a horse which had been brought from the northern coast of Africa. This horse was

the celebrated "WHITE TURK," and Mr. Place was afterwards stud-master to Oliver Cromwell. This importation was speedily followed by the introduction of "the Helmsley Turk," by Villiers, the first Duke of Buckingham, to which that fine horse, called the Morocco Barb, was added by Lord Fairfax. From this period, improvement rapidly advanced—indeed so rapidly, as to call forth the lamentations of Lord Harlegh, for the visible diminution of the old stock, known as "the Great Horse."

Charles I. followed up the advantages which James had already secured, and warmly encouraged both racing and hunting; indeed, to such an extent was the breeding of light and rapid horses brought by this prince, that it became the subject of a memorial, setting forth that the breed of stout and powerful horses, "fit for the defence of the country," was likely altogether to disappear, unless measures were taken to prevent their doing so. This prince first substituted the use of the *bit* for the old *snaffle*.

Cromwell, Puritan though he was, or affected to be, had his stud of race-horses, and proved that he felt mere bone and bulk to be no match for speed and endurance; he therefore recognised horse-racing, as a means of promoting the breed of active coursers, to be connected with his country's welfare. Cromwell had himself trained, probably, the best regiment of cavalry at the time in existence.

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## CHAPTER VII.

### "THE RESTORATION."

THE Restoration seems to have given a fresh impulse to racing, and, consequently, to horse-breeding; and not only were the courses already established by Charles I. at Hyde Park and Newmarket, still encouraged and patronized by royalty, but others were added to the number, and the monarch himself became a competitor for the prizes. These prizes had, up to this period, consisted of a *bell*, a simple trophy; and hence the common phrase, intended to imply

success, "he bore away the bell." *Bells* were now abolished, and a *cup*, or piece of *plate*, to the value of one hundred guineas, substituted for them. Newmarket now assumed the lead, and that position it has ever since occupied. We may add that, in more recent times, the *cup* or *plate* is not always to be taken in the literal sense of the words, the actual value, viz., one hundred guineas, being, in nearly every case, given to the winner instead. Charles II. sent his master-of-horse to the Levant, in order to procure horses and mares. These were, of course, from the locality, most frequently Turks or Barbs, but speedily every description of eastern horse became engrafted on British stock.

James II. reigned too short a time, and even that short period was of too unsettled a character, to admit of his doing much for the improvement of our horses; he was, however, an excellent horseman, and understood the animal well. It is probable that it is on this account that he is still popularly called in Ireland "Shemus-na-cappul," or "James of the horses."

William III. established a riding-school, under the management of a French gentleman, named Major Foubert; he also added several *plates* in different parts of the kingdom.

Queen Anne encouraged racing, and not only continued a bounty equal to that of her predecessors, but added several new plates. It is possible that much of her encouragement was due to the influence of her cousin, Prince George of Denmark. Towards the end of this reign, the prejudice against Arab blood, which originated in the failure of King James's horse, was effectually removed by the introduction of the celebrated Darley Arabian. Mr. Darley procured this beautiful horse from his brother, a merchant settled in Aleppo. This was the horse truly calculated to perfect our British stock, and to render it what it has ever since continued—the FIRST IN THE WORLD! Of the Darley Arabian, little need be said beyond stating, that he was the sire of "Flying Childers," the fastest horse that ever ran. Flying Childers ran over the course at Newmarket, a distance of three miles, six furlongs, and ninety-three yards,

in six minutes and forty seconds; the Beacon course (four miles, one furlong, and one hundred and thirty-eight yards), in seven minutes and thirty seconds; and also accomplished very nearly one mile in a minute. We give his portrait, page 40. Such was the progeny of the Darley Arabian with the old English racer. The British horse is now the fastest in the world, and far superior to the Arab, even in swiftness. It is not many years since Pyramus, the best Arab in Bengal, was beaten with ease by Recruit, an English racer of scarcely fourth-rate merit.

George I. continued the royal patronage of the turf, and was the first to discontinue the practice of giving *cups* or *plates* for prizes, giving *specie* to the value of one hundred guineas in their stead.

George II. adopted a wise policy, and one calculated alike to retard the progress of an inferior race of horses, and to remove from the lower class of people much of the temptation to attend races. This was embodied in an Act of Parliament, passed in the thirteenth year of his reign (cap. 2). By this it was enacted, that for any and every horse a certain tax should be paid, besides other particulars, which want of space prevents our mentioning.

In the reign of George III. special taxes were imposed upon race-horses, and in the twenty-fourth year of this reign, cap. 26, it was enacted—that every running-horse, entered to start for any plate or other prize, should, in addition to all former imposts, pay the sum of £2 2s., “and the owner thereof shall previously pay two guineas, as the duty for one year, to the clerk of the course, or other authorized person.” This king, for a man of so religious a turn of mind as he is represented, was strangely attached to racing, which, however, as has been shown, he endeavoured to strip of its abuses, probably conceiving that horse-racing, when properly conducted as a mere trial of speed, was perfectly legitimate, and calculated to produce good effects, while it was its abuse alone that rendered this amusement incompatible with true religion. By the zeal of this monarch, public riding-schools were established, and this led to the establishment of many private *menages* by the princes of the blood and persons of fortune. His



majesty had also one erected for himself specially, and became soon an accomplished horseman. He also instituted the first veterinary college, with a view to placing the treatment of horses and cattle under disease upon a proper footing; a French gentleman of much skill was appointed professor, by name, Monsieur Vial de St. Bel.

George IV. was devoted to the horse, to horsemanship, and to the turf, from his earliest years; and during his reign these amusements attained a height hitherto unprecedented, and, we may perhaps add, unsurpassed since. During this reign, at the termination of our differences with France, the French became infected with our enthusiasm relative to horse-racing; and our system, regulations, and even the costume of our jockeys, were all eagerly adopted. The Duke of Orleans was the first who assumed the dress of an English jockey in France, and his example was speedily followed.

William IV. having been brought up to the sea, did not, of course, feel much personal ardour for the turf or for horsemanship; he, however, not only offered no discouragement to it, but by his presence and countenance lent to it all the patronage he could bestow.

Victoria, our present gracious sovereign, affords every possible encouragement to equestrian amusements. She is herself an excellent horsewoman, as well as a fearless one. His Royal Highness, Albert, Prince of Saxe Coburg and Gotha, has greatly endeared himself to the hearts of all classes of the people by his amiable, unoffending disposition, and by his adoption of all our sports, pastimes, and customs, with a tact and readiness peculiar to the finished gentleman. To his numerous and varied accomplishments Prince Albert is now able to add that of horsemanship. On his first arrival amongst us he displayed some degree of awkwardness in the saddle, which was eagerly commented upon and sneered at by some of the low and disreputable portions of the press—sneers and comments only betraying the ignorance and ill-feeling of those who had the extreme bad taste to give them utterance. The fact is, the method of *breaking* the horse in his royal highness's own country differs materially from that



in use amongst us; this occasions a difference of *action*, and hence the *apparent* awkwardness, for it was only *apparent*, which he at first displayed; the difficulty did not long remain unsurmounted, however, and we believe that Prince Albert is now as remarkable for his graceful riding as he is for every other acquirement necessary to constitute the gentleman, the scholar, and the prince—long may he and his consort, our beloved queen, live and reign.

We have now traced the history of the horse in England, from the earliest time of which we possess any record, to the present day. That, to many, such an account must have proved wearisome, is possible; but we do trust that to the majority of our readers the contrary has been the case, and that the preceding detail will rather enhance than detract from the interest which will be experienced in the succeeding portion of a more practical character.

Before, however, proceeding to those particulars, it is necessary to say a very few words of the horses indigenous to Scotland and Ireland.

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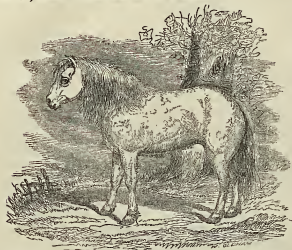
## CHAPTER VIII.

### THE INDIGENOUS HORSES OF SCOTLAND AND IRELAND.

IN Scotland, a small race of horses has existed from time immemorial, remarkable for their symmetry of form and docility of disposition, and known by the name of Gallo-ways. So much esteemed were these little horses in former times, that it became necessary for the Scottish monarchs to restrict their exportation. Tradition says that these horses are of *Spanish* origin, and that they originally sprung from Spanish horses which swam ashore from some of the ships composing the redoubted Spanish armada, which were wrecked upon the western coast of Scotland.

In the islands and northern counties of Scotland is also to be met with a small, rough, hardy race, scarcely exceeding a large dog in size, and called *Shelties*. With the exception of the head, which is generally somewhat too large,

these little creatures are most symmetrically formed, being, indeed, almost miniatures of the Arabian.



One of the most beautiful Shelties I have ever seen is in the possession of Mr. Vernon, of Clontarf Castle, near Dublin; his portrait is given underneath. Most Shelties present

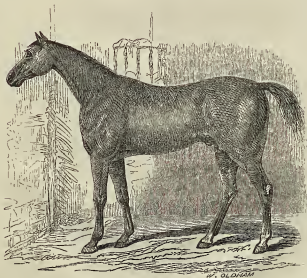


some objectionable points about the head—in some instances, almost amounting to deformity. This faulty conformation is not present in Mr. Vernon's pony, he being, not only in this, but in other respects, symmetrical, as will be seen by the portrait which, with the aid of the pencil and graver of our friend, Wm. Oldham, we have given of him. This little pony is of a black colour, with a white star upon his forehead; is rough, with an abundant mane and tail. He stands rather under thirty-six inches in height; but his size will be, perhaps, better understood, when I mention that both Mr. Vernon and the writer of these pages, when sitting upon his back, touched the ground at both sides with the feet, neither of us being quite six feet high. This little animal was brought over by Mr. Vernon from Scotland, during a tour through the Highlands and islands of the western coast of that country. He is remarkably docile and good-tempered, and altogether, as I have observed, the best specimen of the race I have ever seen.

Ireland also possesses an indigenous breed of horses; some say *several*, but we are disposed to imagine that but *one* breed is properly entitled to be regarded as primitive, the others being merely variations resulting from crosses, and subsequent neglect. These horses are of small size, but of good form, very strong in proportion to their stature, active, and of excellent constitution. These were popularly called *Hobbies*; they were formerly in much esteem, both in their native country and in England, and so great was the mania for possessing them, which at one time existed almost universally throughout the British Islands, that their name became afterwards proverbially applied to every object on which an individual placed inordinate affection. "He is on his hobby," is an expression too familiar to require the reader to be more than reminded of it.

Many of the old writers speak in complimentary terms of these little horses, and bear testimony to the high degree of estimation in which they were formerly held. Both Strutt and Campion have recorded their value in their works, as witness the following passages:—"Horses they have of pace easie, in running wonderful swift. Therefore they make of them great store, as wherein at times of need they repose a great piece of safetie." "I heard it verified by honorable

to honorable, that a nobleman offered, and was refused, for one such horse, an hundred kyne, five townlands, and an eery of hawks yearly, during seven years." It has been asserted that the climate of Ireland is too moist to be favourable to the breed of horses. The only reply that we can give to this assertion is a practical one—look to these "hobbies," the indigenous breed of the country, ere we possessed the advantage of crossing from English or foreign stocks, so highly valued everywhere; look at the performances of more modern Irish racers and hunters. As a sample of the latter, we give this figure. We shall relate one or two. In the month of October, A.D.

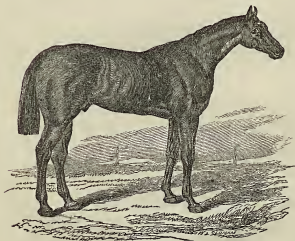


1741, a Mr. Wilde undertook to ride 127 miles in nine hours; he performed it in six hours and twenty-one minutes, riding ten horses, making due allowance for mounting,

dismounting and refreshment. This took place at the Curragh meeting (Kildare) of that year. The following redounds more to the credit of the horse than to that of the inhuman rider: Two Irish grooms were drinking at the door of a public-house, one having with him for exercise a favorite hunter of his master's; the trifling bet of a glass of whiskey was made that the horse would not clear a neighbouring wall. The drunken brute at once accepted the wager, and turning his horse, put him standing at the wall, the height considerably exceeding seven feet. The poor horse, not having imbibed the same maddening stimulant as his master, refused the leap. The groom immediately wheeled him round, cantered him a short distance, so as to obtain a run, and then putting the poor animal at speed, once more faced him at the wall. The noble creature, too full of spirit to refuse a second time, rose his best—alas! the height of the wall far exceeded the powers of any horse unfurnished with wings, and the generous animal forfeited his life to his courage. His forefeet striking the summit, he grounded on the other side, and both forelegs were broken in the fall. Unfortunately, for example's sake, the wretch who rode him escaped almost uninjured. The horse's owner being absent from home, the poor animal was suffered to linger for several days in agony; when the owner returned, he was shot.

It is principally as high leapers that the Irish horses are renowned, and in this class of performance we believe they are unrivalled, nor is their style of leaping that of an ordinary horse, taking a moderate elevation in "a fly" as a horse in training will take the bar in a riding-school. The Irish horse leaps with a single bound, all his form collected together, rests lightly for half a second upon the summit of the obstacle, and springs as lightly down. The leap of the Irish horse resembles as closely as possible that of the *deer*, and the elevation they will clear in this manner frequently equals the height of their heads. Until a recent date, the Irish horse was valued almost exclusively as a hunter, and for steeple-chases; but events in the racing world have since shown that on the turf he is as little to be despised as after hounds. The performances of Harkaway, The

Baron, Foigh-a-ballagh (of the last-named of which we here give a portrait), and a host of others, evincing first-rate speed, are sufficient to remove any slur that might ever have been attempted to be cast upon the racing qualities of the Irish horse. It is not, however, to be denied, that the Irish horse occasionally possesses some peculiarities of shape which might displease an English eye; amongst others may be enumerated a certain degree of *angularity* or *raggedness* of form, and in many a tendency to too great thickness and shortness in the forehead. No writer, how-



ever opposed to the admission of anything *perfect* coming out of Ireland, has attempted to refuse to the Irish blood-horse the attributes of immense power, proportioned to his bulk, of a happy combination of spirit and fire, with, for the most part, mildness and docility, courage and gentleness. The Irish blood-horse may, indeed, fearlessly vie with those of any country in the world.

## CHAPTER IX.

## OUR PRESENT BREEDS, AND HINTS AS TO MANAGEMENT.

It is now fit that we should glance, somewhat in detail, but, at the same time, as briefly as the nature and importance of the subject will admit, at the different breeds of horses at present in use throughout the United Kingdom. Probably the best subdivision of these breeds that we could adopt is one founded upon the several uses to which each breed is most properly allotted:—For racing, hunting, road-riding, draught, general agricultural purposes, &c. By following this method, we shall be enabled to enumerate and describe each important breed *seriatim*.

THE RACER of these islands, from having been so frequently crossed with, nay, chiefly formed from, the Arab and Barb, bears a very considerable family-likeness to these



animals; but he is superior to them in stature, in stride, and in performance. The Racer should carry a high and lofty



head, with bright and courageous eye, small ear, expanded nostril, arched neck, convex on the upper surface, *but not presenting any curve underneath*; sometimes the neck presents an appearance precisely the reverse of this, usually in mares; this is by many declared to be a sign of very high blood; it is called "ewe-necked." In my opinion, however, it is less a sign of *blood* than a proof of the animal's progenitors having been related within too close degrees of affinity—a circumstance that should, when possible, be avoided. A Racer must be a *blood* horse. The meaning of this term is as follows:—The Arab is supposed to be the purest and least adulterated of breeds, and to be the most faithful representative extant of the original horse; the criterion of *blood* is, therefore, the being able to trace a horse's pedigree to an Asiatic progenitor. *Thorough-bred* and *blood* are synonymous terms. It does occasionally, though rarely, happen that a horse is perfectly formed, although not *thorough-bred*; when such is the case, the horse, notwithstanding his form, is usually deficient in speed, and, however excellent for other purposes, is useless as a Racer; it also occasionally happens that a thorough-bred horse is defective in some of the *running points* of form. In order, therefore, to constitute a Racer, we must have a combination of *blood* and *form*—an ill-formed horse cannot run; and none but a *blood* horse can race at speed to the end of a long course, and live. There has been much controversy on this subject; but I think I have, in a few words, rendered the actual facts sufficiently clear and intelligible.

It is not, perhaps, generally known, that the common expression applied by jockeys to a well-formed horse which cannot race, "he wants *heart*," is literally and anatomically true. The heart of a Racer must be *large*, and the cavity of the chest capacious. The lungs also must be large, and play freely. The heart of Eclipse, who, next to Flying Childers (whose portrait is on the opposite page), was the fastest horse that ever ran, was of a singularly large size, weighing upwards of fourteen pounds. The expression, "broke his heart" is also, in many cases, literally correct, that viscus being not unfrequently burst or ruptured when the poor animal is pushed to over and undue

exertion. To return, however. The neck must be gracefully set on, and the shoulder must be lengthened, oblique, and lie well back; a lofty fore-quarter denotes relationship to the Barb, that race being remarkable for presenting this feature. The Godolphin Barb, indeed (sometimes erroneously called the Arabian), possessed this feature to such an extraordinary degree, that the truth of his portrait has been questioned. That which we have extant, however, is from a picture originally taken by a French artist, and copied by the celebrated Stubbs, of which our cut is a no less faithful copy. The quarters should be ample and muscular; the fore-legs straight and fine, but with sufficient bone; the hinder legs well bent, and the pasterns long and springy. Much strength in little compass, provided that compass is not too little to admit of adequate stretch, or *stride*, constitutes the *acmé* of perfection in a Racer.

The British Racer has long held a first place in the estimation of the equestrians of Europe. It is well known that Napoleon, when in the zenith of his power and glory, conferred an order of high military rank upon a German prince, in return for his having brought his stud to France, the progeny of the celebrated English horse, "Morwick Ball;" and it is not very long since France was purchasing a considerable number of half-bred horses in England and Ireland for the use of their cavalry, and that, too, at a very high average figure, viz., from £30 to £40 a-piece. Some are fond of asserting that our horses are degenerating in excellence, and in proof, recapitulate the performances of some of our coursers of former days. I deny the correctness of the inference, and would rather suggest that our horses have so much progressed in excellence, that feats, once deemed extraordinary, are now regarded as commonplace, and scarcely talked of.

Thorough-bred horses are now, in consequence of the great general improvement, more equal in point of speed, and fewer *individual performances* occur to excite wonder. On one point, however, before leaving the subject of the Racer, I would take this opportunity of expressing my unqualified opinion—that the abominable practice of running horses at too early an age, which is at present fast creep-

ing into fashion, is but too certain to produce early foundering and rapid degeneracy of stock.

THE HUNTER, in a country such as ours, abounding with hedges, stone walls, and heavy-ploughed lands, should be bred with a view to greater power than is requisite in the racer, and *length of stride* is, therefore, less essential to his form than *barrel*. Let his legs and *pasterns* be rather *short* than otherwise; an Arabian would speedily founder in a run with hounds across one of the most level of British counties. *Clumsiness* is not, however, a necessary concomitant of power. Let the Hunter have as much *strength* as possible, without *weight*; sufficient courage, without wild, tameless fire; good wind, free breath, a free gallop, but, at the same time, a light and nimble, and a free, easy, *sweet* trot; and let him be *six years* old before he is ridden to hounds: a horse may be advantageously used in the *harrow* and light *draught* when rising *four*, and may thus be made to "pay his keep." Many recommend putting your Hunter in the *plough*, and so would I, under certain conditions—viz., that the land be not *heavy*, and the plough be a light one; if these conditions be not attended to, the horse is apt to acquire an ugly carriage, and a habit of *poking* with his head—faults which, however lightly they may be regarded at first, will prove serious inconveniences, when they cause the Hunter to fall headlong in full career, in consequence of his being unable to use his eyesight when his head is kept up and in hand. This custom of working young Hunters, indeed to a great extent *old ones* also, prevails much in Ireland. There are in Ireland but few farmers, or small landowners, who do not strive to keep at least one "*blood horse*," and in many instances the finances are too low, or prudence is too great, to admit of such being kept as mere idlers, or permitted uselessly to "eat their heads off" in the stable.

Much controversy has arisen relative to the advantages or disadvantages of what is called "summering the Hunter." In our opinion, nothing so tends to renovate his powers as turning the poor horse out to grass in summer. The opponents to this system argue that doing so destroys the animal's condition, and gives his owner a world of trou-

ble to get him in order for the ensuing season : even, however, were this the case, would you keep the poor wretch that has served you so faithfully during your winter's chase, standing in a hot stable during the sultry heats of summer, and all—to save a little trouble? Oh ! but some hunt during the summer months!! Shame upon such selfish men—men unworthy of the name of British sportsmen ; cruel alike to the animals whose service they employ in the chase—those noble creatures, the horse and the dog—and unnecessarily so to the poor animals they hunt, whose breeding season it is. These men, for a very short period of doubtful pleasure, injure their horses, their hounds, themselves, and also mar the legitimate sport of the coming season.

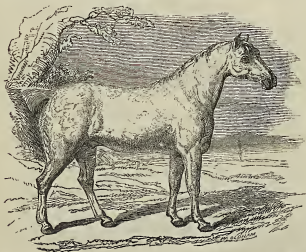
There is nothing like summering for renovating the hoof ; and with a view to this, a soft pasture should be selected, yet not a boggy one : the grass growing on a boggy soil is unhealthful, the vapours and steam arising from it prejudicial, and the “fly” far more troublesome than in drier grounds. This mode of treatment has another advantage : it obviates the necessity of physic, the less of which a horse can be given the better. The celebrated Beckford was a strenuous advocate of this system, as indeed he was of every system connected with rural sports, and tending to promote humanity : and that close-thinker adds, as a further inducement to adopt his views, that your horses will require less of the groom's exercise afterwards ; which, if you value an easy mouth, and a comfortable seat, you will find no mean desideratum.

*Hunters must be fed according to their work ;* when that is hard, let them have plenty—when otherwise, diminish the food, especially the hay. Beckford judiciously recommends a little clean wheat-straw to be chopped small, and mixed with their corn, “if,” says he, “you have interest enough with your groom to prevail on him to give it to them.” My advice is, if you doubt your groom, see to it in person.

When your horses require physic, if at grass, take them in the first night after each dose ; such as require powerful medicine should be physicked in the stable. Nitre is a useful medicine ; is very cooling, and otherwise salutary in

its effects, as an alterative ; it may be given in doses of an ounce to each horse, either in the water, or among the corn. Carrots are excellent for horses when at all thick in the wind, foul in the coat, or low in flesh ; but they should not be given in the corn, as some writers recommend, for the horses are in that case apt afterwards to refuse it unmixed.

THE HACKNEY, or ROADSTER, should be still more compact than the hunter, with more substance in proportion to his height ; his forehead should be light, but high ;



his head small, and placed in a tapering manner on his neck ; shoulders deep and spacious, and lying well back ; back straight ; loins strong ; fillets wide, and withers well raised ; nor must the croup droop too suddenly, or the tail be set on too low. The forearm should be particularly strong and muscular ; the legs should be straight, and set together ; the feet should point directly forward (bad shoeing, however, which may be remedied, may occasion the reverse of this) ; see that his knees do not bend ; above all things, avoid a horse that *stands over* ; he does sometimes turn

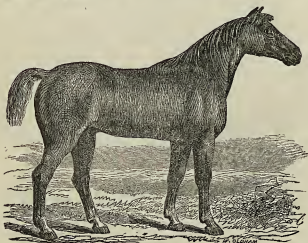
out well, but you can never depend upon him, never knowing when he may come down; the hind legs should be placed well back, and should stand wide; observe his action, that he lift not his feet too high, for however the novice may conceive such a practice to be a safeguard against stumbling, or to have a showy appearance, it is certain to produce a most uneasy seat, as well as to occasion very unnecessary wear and tear of the hoof. Take care, at the same time, that he lift not his feet in a slovenly manner, or too low, and that, above all, his feet are returned flat to the ground; if the toe first comes down, the animal is sure to prove a stumbler. Always *feel* your horse's mouth, even when travelling the smoothest road: this is a good *habit*, and may frequently save him his knees and you a fall.

In Ireland, the hackneys, or ordinary riding-horses, exhibit no inconsiderable amount of thorough blood, a circumstance which derives its origin from the love, already adverted to, of farmers and country gentlemen keeping brood-mares in work, and putting them, when in season, to whatever blood horse is standing in the neighbourhood, at a moderate charge. Too high breeding is objectionable in a roadster, as tending to impart a straight-kneed, upright action, calculated extremely well for racing, but very ill-adapted for the road.

In speaking of the hackney, or ordinary riding horse, it would be wrong to omit saying a few words of the horse generally used as a war-steed or charger. The light cavalry are now mounted on half-bred horses, possessing much of the character of the hunter, and indeed some present no inconsiderable appearance of blood. Formerly, all our cavalry were mounted on great, heavy animals, partaking closely of Flanders stock; but it is now long since it was found that lighter and more active horses proved far more effective in the field, and that rapidity of evolution was a greater desideratum than mere physical weight or strength. What is known as a "weight-carrying hunter" is about the best description of horse for a charger. The horses of the artillery display less appearance of blood than the ordinary charger, and when *cast*, as it is called, are well worthy the attention of agriculturists, as they are docile and

willing, and make excellent servants either for the cart or plough.

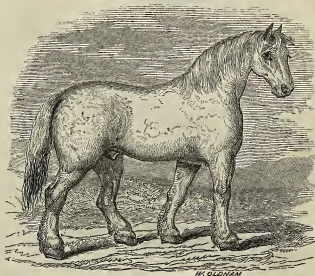
**THE CARRIAGE HORSE.**—The best and most showy carriage horses are those descended from Norman blood. Those in ordinary use are now bred with so much blood as to present very little difference of appearance from



the hunter. The best carriage horses that could be bred would be produced by crossing a handsome draught-mare with a thorough-bred horse, provided the latter possesses sufficient bone and height. The best description of draught-mare that could, perhaps, be selected for this purpose, is that called the CLEVELAND BAY, a clean-made but powerful animal, and one which was formerly much in use to mount our cavalry.

**THE DRAUGHT HORSE.**—The present breed of draught horses in England are remarkable for their gigantic size, vast power, and slow, deliberate motion. The most esteemed are the CLYDESDALE; for that breed, although of large size, possesses greater suppleness of limb and more activity than the heavy Flemish. The brewers of London

have been long celebrated for their enormous horses, and the utility of their prodigious size has been often thought-

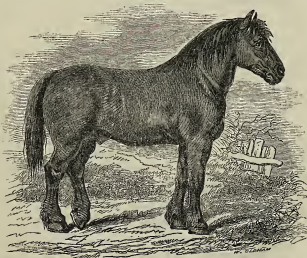


lessly questioned. I say *thoughtlessly*, for their bulk is absolutely necessary to enable them to endure uninjured the shocks they experience in drawing their heavy loads over a rugged London pavement. M. Huzard and M. Desmarests assert that these great horses are of the Boulogne race of France; but Colonel Smith contradicts this assertion, and affirms, "No French horses, save those of Norman blood, have met with consideration in England for more than a century." (*Nat. Lib.*, "Horse," p. 270). The English draught horse was, in my opinion, an animal of *gradual development*. It was, I think, first imported by the Saxons, and subsequently gradually improved in size and power by crossing with the Flemish horses, introduced by the followers of William of Normandy, who, with their Earl, obtained a large grant of land at the Conquest. Colonel



Smith says that the Flemish archives contain indications of the horses of that country having been conveyed to England during the Plantagenet dynasty.

The present great horses of the London brewers are, I believe, bred chiefly in Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and Staffordshire. Some fine animals are also bred in Northamptonshire. In this last-named county was bred that stupendous animal some time since exhibited in the Egyptian Hall, London, by the late Mr. Carter, known as the "Lion King." The height of the "MAMMOTH HORSE," as this great animal was appropriately styled, was twenty hands (six feet eight inches) at the withers; and to the spectator standing on a chair, and looking down upon his back, it appeared as long and as capacious as a ship's barge. His weight was 25 cwt.—*a ton and a quarter!* This horse was not clumsy, but, on the contrary, he was a grand, graceful,



and noble-looking creature, quite free from vice, and as playful as a lamb. He is stated to have been produced by a cross between the old Cleveland and the Flanders stocks.

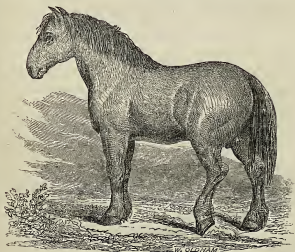
The Irish brewers do not emulate the prodigious horses of their neighbours on the opposite side of the channel ; they can, however, show good, serviceable beasts under their drays—beasts, it is true, of far less bulk than the London horses, but which would nevertheless press these gigantic animals very closely, were a trial of strength to be instituted between them. We give an example on the previous page.

For *farm use*, cart horses should not be bred too heavy, for they will be found to retain an equal proportion of power if bred with a view to a moderate share of activity. I am of opinion that the English farmers and owners who use horse-power, are in error in employing such large and heavy animals as they do. This system compels them to keep a greater number than they otherwise need have ; and it should be recollected that every unnecessary or supernumerary horse kept upon a farm is just as much absolute loss of money as his support costs, and that cost need not necessarily consist of actual outlay ; the *produce thus consumed* is to be regarded as so much money wasted. These great horses *cannot, besides, do their fair share of work* ; they are too sluggish, too lethargic ; and hence English agriculturists, who employ such, are obliged to work a greater number than, with proper management, *ought to be necessary*. I have frequently been amused to see, in some of the English midland counties, three enormous horses, for instance, drawing a *light plough on light soil*—a work that would be performed with ease by a *single horse* of the lighter breeds in general use in Scotland or Ireland.

To such as *breed* cart horses, or wish to do so, I may offer a few words of advice. You must be governed in your operations by the description of *work* for which you design the animal you desire to breed. If you live upon a light, sandy soil, a foal out of a Clydesdale mare, by a thorough-bred horse, will produce a valuable article, and one that you can work up to six years old, by which time you will have another colt ready to your hand, and may dispose of the former at a remunerative price. If you reside on a stronger soil, you must breed a heavier animal ; and if you put a Clydesdale stallion to a mare produced by

a cross such as I have described, you will have attained your end to your satisfaction. In rearing your foals, recollect that good feeding and warm housing are absolutely necessary during the first autumn and winter. It is during the first year that you either make or mar your foal; if starved or stinted by neglect during that period, you may abandon all expectation of seeing him a good horse, whatever has been his pedigree.

THE SUFFOLK PUNCH is a very useful horse for agricultural purposes; in colour yellowish or sorrel, with frequently a white *blaze* in the face, large head, wide between the ears, rather coarse muzzle, long and straight back, flat sides, low fore-end, and shoulders too much forward, high at the hips, round legs, short pasterns, deep-bellied, and



full barrel. This horse is, as will be seen from our description, no beauty, being deficient in several points of symmetry; he is, nevertheless, a hardy and a useful horse, and one capable of performing a greater amount of labour than many better-looking animals. He is also kindly, and

a good feeder, it being no ordinary fatigue that will suffice to put him against his manger. In the foregoing description, it is necessary to state that we had in our mind's eye the *original* Suffolk Punch horse, and not the modern-bred cart horse of that county. The old Suffolk Punch was remarkable for the willingness and perseverance with which he would pull against a dead weight, which he felt could not be moved by his strength. The present breed seem to have been produced from a cross with the Norman stock; they stand much higher, and are of lighter form. It is questionable how far they may be regarded as an improvement upon their predecessors. The old Punch breed brought very high prices: mares with foals at foot have gone so high as 150 guineas; and 100 guineas was not a very extraordinary price for a stallion. The present alteration in the form and size of the Suffolk horses is to be attributed to a cross with Yorkshire half-bred stallions: the result has been a larger race and higher forehead breed; but it is, as we already remarked, questionable whether the animal maintains the valuable qualities of energy and temper that he formerly possessed. Perhaps no horses are so generally useful for a farmer's purposes as those of Ireland. The cause of this has been already hinted at, viz., the custom of the farmers of that country to keep a mare or two, and give her a blood horse when in season.

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## CHAPTER X.

### NOTES ON STABLE MANAGEMENT.

SOME horses do not like fowl in the stable, and if one gets into the manger, the oats will frequently be left untasted; neither these birds, nor goats, nor pigs, should be permitted to enter the stable.

Human feelings are not a sufficient guide as to the temperature of a stable, and a thermometer should always be kept for that purpose hanging against the wall. The heat should never exceed 50 degrees Fahrenheit in winter, or, if

possible, 65 degrees in summer. The stall-floor should not slope more than is absolutely necessary to carry off the superfluous moisture; if the declivity be too great, the flexor tendons of both fore and hind legs are kept on a constant stretch, to the certain injury of the horse.

Much of the ophthalmia prevalent amongst horses is caused by the ammonia given off by the urine and droppings, but more especially by the former. This is to be dissipated by ventilation, but it may be absorbed by sulphate of lime or gypsum, as also by muriatic acid. Many farmers conceive that *darkness* is an advantage in the stable, inasmuch as it induces bad feeders to eat: perhaps they are not aware that darkness is one of the most frequent causes of *early blindness*, or, at least, of considerable injury to the sight. Hence, also, a very frequent origin of *stumbling* and *starting*—two faults of a most unpleasant character.

A loose box or two are a very useful, nay, necessary appendage to every stable; in building a new stable, indeed, you can readily have these so constructed that every stall will be convertible, in a few minutes, into one. The box is most useful for a fagged and jaded horse, for it encourages him to lie down and rest; and to the idle horse, for it encourages him to walk about, amuse, and exercise himself. A box, at some distance from the stable, is useful in case of contagious or infectious disease; it is also useful as permitting of more variations of temperature than the ordinary stable, and into this—cooled down as nearly as possible to the temperature of the external air—should every horse just taken from grass be put, ere being removed into the warm stable; and, *vice versa*, ere being turned out of the warm stable to grass, in spring or summer. Such a system of management would prevent the accession of many a cold.

The ordinary practice of limiting the allowance of water is both inhuman and contrary to common sense. Nature never errs; and if water be left to the horse's own discretion, he will only take as much as is good for him. I am disposed to attribute to this curtailment of water many of the diseases of the horse—as slow fever, glanders, nasal catarrh, &c. When a horse is warm with violent exertion,

the chill had better be taken off; but it is bad to do this by letting the water lie in the stable; it is better to add a little warm water to it. In well-conducted racing-stables, water is given to the horses so frequently that they will drink but little at a time: surely this is better than keeping them so long thirsty that when the water is given them they will fill themselves to repletion.

The *quality* of the water is also of primary importance; it should be pure, fresh, and sweet. Do not let *nitre* be mixed with it, unless when required as medicine—a very common practice amongst ignorant grooms, and occasionally even advocated by those who should know better.

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## CHAPTER XI.

### GROOMING AND DRESSING.

A FEW words in reference to *cleaning* and *dressing*. The ordinary farm-horse, at work all day and turned out at night, requires little more grooming than a rub down with a wisp of straw, and the removal of mud and dirt from his limbs; hardiness is necessary to the existence of this horse, and a regular system of grooming would only render the skin more sensitive, and the horse more susceptible of cold. But it is of the *stable* and the stabled-horse that we are more immediately treating, and it is to him—deprived, as he is, to a great extent, of exercise—that grooming is most necessary, in order to cleanse away the scurf that obstructs the pores, and thus admitting of free perspiration, and promoting circulation towards the extremities.

There are two ways by which a fine, glossy coat may be produced—by heat and by dressing. The former produces it at the expense of the animal's health; the latter is, on the other hand, highly conducive to health. The proprietor should therefore see that the fine coat of his hunter or riding-horse is produced by fair, honest rubbing, and the free use of the currycomb, and not by heated stabling and warm sheeting. Horses should, as a matter of course, be dressed every morning; the cleaning they receive after work

is quite an extra matter. With horses that possess a very tender skin, the use of the currycomb may be dispensed with, and the *brush* or *haircloth glove* substituted for it. If you wish to ascertain whether or not your horse has been properly dressed, rub his coat with one of your fingers; if a *greasy stain* be present, your groom has slurred over his task.

It is in winter that the neglect of grooming, or its slovenly performance will produce the worst effects on the horse, and with the greatest rapidity. On a horse coming in in dirty weather, the mud should be first removed; this is usually done in two ways—first, by scraping it away with the sweat-knife, and finishing with the currycomb and brush; secondly, by *washing* it away. The best mode of doing it, however, is, first of all to remove all the mud and loose water, by the aid of the knife; and then, should the horse be warm, walk him about for a quarter of an hour or so; then use the *wisp*, and rub him dry; wash the feet and legs, pick the soles, look at the shoes, rub the feet and legs *dry*—this is a most important consideration, and one that is generally too much neglected, hence giving rise to many severe colds, inflammations, and often *grease*. Comb the mane and tail. These operations are terminated by a careful finishing with dry wisps. When a horse is quickly and effectually dried in the manner we have detailed, there is not the slightest danger of his catching cold; but there may occur—in very rare instances, certainly—but still there *may* occur,—cases where the horse cannot be thus groomed, but must be put up in the wet state in which he came off the road.

In these cases we resort to *clothing*; this is *never* to be resorted to where it is possible to groom, and is on no account to be regarded as offering a substitute for manual friction; it is merely to be regarded as an expedient—a *last resource*, better than absolute neglect; it may, however, be well to know that such a resource exists. The object of clothing, and the manner in which it acts as a preventive against a wet or over-heated horse catching cold, are as follow: cold is caught in consequence of the sudden cooling down of the body at the surface, producing increased action of the res-

piratory and vasculatory system ; in order to the supply of the deficiency of animal heat thus produced, inflammation of those organs, or some portion of their attendant apparatus, consequently takes place. The cooling of the surface is caused by the evaporation ; the more rapid the evaporation, the more sudden and severe the chill. The clothing then acts, by preventing or retarding evaporation ; the horse consequently loses heat so slowly that his natural vigour is able to keep up the necessary supply—in short, he *never becomes chilled*. The clothing also absorbs some of the superfluous moisture ; it should be woollen, and thrown loosely over the body—not strapped down upon it, as that is apt to excite undue perspiration.

Let not any of my readers conceive that I have devoted too much consideration to this subject. All horses are more or less liable to injury from cold ; to be sure, horses will constantly be seen exposed to all the severity of the most severe weather, and yet escape ; such have been probably gradually inured to exposure ; and the power of the animal system to accommodate itself to circumstances is very great ; but surely a little trouble is preferable to great risk, especially when valuable horses are concerned. A wet horse requires most care when he has been *heated by his work*. The reader has probably experienced this in his own person ; after copiously perspiring he has felt cold and shivering, even though his skin be at the time quite dry. So it is with the horse : before he has been heated he might stand in the cold, or with his coat wet, for, perhaps, half-an-hour, without experiencing any ill effects ; but, after perspiring pretty freely from exertion, exposure, without exercise, to a cold atmosphere, for fifteen minutes, will do him more mischief than similar exposure for an hour would have caused him before the exertion : in the former case he would have had a cough next day—in the latter, he would probably be nothing the worse.

When a horse has contracted mischief from the exposure, the first symptom is generally a *staring of the coat*. When you perceive this, let the animal be at once put into a warm stable, and warmly clothed ; or, if the weather be favourable, let him be at once put into motion. Your object is,



to restore the vital heat—to produce a healthy reaction in place of chilliness and prostration. If *shivering*—which usually next shows itself, if you have not attended to the matter in time—should supervene, you will have to administer hot drink, and to clothe the horse with flannel sheeting, previously *warmed*; friction with the hair-glove, in the *warm stable*, especially under the belly and behind the joints, will be useful.

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## CHAPTER XII.

### A FEW WORDS TO FARMERS.

IT is a bad practice to take a horse from the plough or cart, and put a saddle on his back; but it is quite a different thing for the farmer to keep, for his own riding, not a light, thin, cat-like animal, fit for nothing else, but a stout, well-formed horse, that, should a demand for extra horse-labour at any time arise, can be put into the plough or cart with a confidence that, in that capacity, it will work well and willingly.

While on this subject I think a word of caution necessary. I have known farmers breed from mares only because they were useless. I have known a mare whose health incapacitated her from work, and who had, consequently, to be turned out to grass for the season, put to the horse that her services might not be wholly lost! Oh, what infatuation—what false economy—what fatal delusion! Unsoundness or disease the qualifying attributes of a breeding mare! The farmer accordingly breeds a foal: it is a well-known maxim that in horse as well as cattle-breeding, *like* almost invariably *begets like*; the infirmities of the mare are perpetuated in her wretched offspring—they become hereditary, and the breeder at length finding his pockets the worse for his experiment, gives up with the reflection that “horse-breeding is a losing concern.” No mare, however good, should be bred from, without a careful and deliberate consideration of her qualifications as a brood-mare; and this is a point wherein many farmers err greatly. A person has

a mare which has proved a valuable servant, and which is, consequently, a favourite: he wishes, if possible, to "preserve her breed," and accordingly takes a foal out of her, after, perhaps, a long life of toil. Another mistake is the following, and it is a common one: a man sees a handsome horse, and takes a fancy to him; he happens to possess a mare, it is the season, and without a moment's consideration of how far that individual mare is suited for that individual horse, he puts her to him, and obtains—what? a mongrel nondescript, presenting a combination of bad qualities, and not one redeeming point. Both parents must be selected with a reference not only to their respective points of excellence, but to the *relative adaptation* which the points of one present to the points of the other. Both may be excellent in their way, but one parent may possess points of excellence which actually *counteract* those of the other. Breed from none but *sound* parents: *accidents*, however, are not to be regarded as unsoundness; but in *purchasing* a mare for breeding, it is necessary to be perfectly certain that the defect, if such exist, be a mere accident, and not a congenital mal-formation. See that both parents are as free from moral as from physical infirmity, from faults or vices of temper or disposition. A defect of one parent may sometimes, however, be removed, or rendered null, by the other possessing a counteracting excellence to a preponderating extent; but, above all things, take care that the same defect be not possessed by both parents. Make up your mind as to the description of animal you intend to breed. Nothing is more unsatisfactory, or so likely to turn out an unprofitable speculation, as breeding a nondescript—a brute fit neither for the carriage nor the plough—for the saddle nor the cart; and it is, with some few exceptions, within the power of the breeder, by a judicious selection of parents, to insure a *certain* offspring. Few things are more *certain* than horse-breeding; for the rule, "like produces like," in most cases holds good from generation to generation. We have stated that, in nearly every case, *accidents* are not to be regarded as unsoundness, or as calculated to render a mare unfit for breeding: caution is, however, necessary; and in our opinion it is

better to be on the safe side, and to avoid even such mares as have suffered from accidents. In a number of the *Veterinarian* (1840), a case of this description is given: a mare broke her leg while running upon Epsom downs; the fracture was reduced, but the leg remained always crooked, and this mare bore a filly foal with a deformed leg like its dam, on the same side, and the curvature with precisely the same inclination.

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## CHAPTER XIII.

### HINTS ABOUT BREEDING.

THE best *cut of a mare* from which to breed, for any purpose, is a short-legged, lengthy animal, with a deep, roomy chest and carcase, wide and capacious hips, and a sound constitution; such is the mare best calculated to perform the important functions of generation and nutrition. Few mares are more objectionable than tall, gawky, leggy animals, whose carcase you will invariably find proportionably confined and deficient in depth and room. Then, of course, we must look for "breed," according to the class of horses to which your mare belongs; a good animated countenance, an upright, sprightly carriage; general structure of muscle, bone, and sinew firm, dense, and compact; such a horse will do three times as good a day's work as an ill-bred, ill-made garron. Some persons seem to set light value on the form of the *head* of a brood-mare; but, as we recollect saying in a former work, we regard the head of every animal as the point where good or ill-breeding will be most obviously indicated. A mare that has a heavy head and a stupid countenance cannot breed a good foal, unless to a horse possessed of fire almost to madness, for her countenance is an index to her disposition. The *neck* should be brought out of the *top* of the withers, and not of the *bottom* of the shoulders and chest; this is a common fault, but one to be avoided. The shoulders should lie well back; the scapula, or blade bone, lying obliquely from the shoulder joint; the blade should also be long and wide, and extend

nearly to the top of the withers, but attached so closely and so well covered with muscle as not to present any remarkable prominence; the back of the shoulder should be well furnished with muscle, and it should appear to the mounted rider, of a *wedge-shape*, widening towards his knee; the fore-leg should be perpendicular, the toe and the point of the shoulder being in a right line; the foot should be round, even, and of a dark colour; the heels should be open, but not low; the brisket should be deep and narrow, this especially applies to a riding-horse, as otherwise a crupper will be necessary to keep the saddle in its proper place; the quarters should be long and oval on the top; in a brood-mare too much latitude cannot be allowed to the hips; but too wide hips in a stallion are an ugly and objectionable point; attend to the houghs, and see that the shank-bone and sinew, both before and behind, be well developed, and dropped straight below the joint. Horses with steep pasterns are seldom comfortable roadsters.

Foals produced from a well-selected mare, by a suitable stallion, may be worked from their third to their sixth year; they may be then sold, and they will be found amply to repay their breeder. Breeding injudiciously is, on the other hand, like flinging your money into the ocean; you can risk as much as you please, but you will rarely see a return. It will sometimes happen that a farmer, from a deficiency of pasture, may be unable to breed; and instead of doing so, may purchase young colts of good quality at from two to three years old, and rear them to a proper age for sale. The advantage of this system is questionable, especially if the cause of its adoption has been *deficiency of pasture*; for the best possible plan of making up young horses for sale, and that followed by all the principal English dealers, is to turn them into good grass, taking them up only about a week before they are to be sold, for the purpose of giving them a coat, reducing their carcase, and teaching them to lead; at all events, it is certain that to deal in this manner successfully requires no small amount of knowledge of the animal, and of the tricks to which jockeys are in the habit of resorting, as well as no inconsiderable capital.

It may now be right that we say a few words as to coup-

ling the parents, and the rearing and management of the foal, from its birth to maturity. The age at which a mare should be put to the horse is from three years upwards. Some have injudiciously bred at an earlier age, and disappointment has been the result. Mr. Youatt says, that if the mare have been lightly worked, she may be used for breeding until she is twenty. We question whether breeding from any mare over twelve years old, at the very utmost, will prove satisfactory. The horse is at his best for breeding at the age of from six to eight; a horse under six, or over ten is not to be depended upon. If you desire a large colt, have a large mare; her size has, in general, more to do in the matter than the size of the male parent. The most favourable time for putting the mare to the horse is from March to the beginning of May: the reason of this is, that the time of foaling will be thus regulated, and the earlier after the beginning of March that a mare foals, the more profitable; the colts foaled in March are generally found to turn out hardier, and to stand better, than those foaled earlier. A mare may be with advantage rested for ten days after having had the horse, and may then be worked as usual, lightening her work, however, as pregnancy advances. When the period of foaling approaches to within about a fortnight, the mare should be discontinued working, and turned into the best pasture on the farm; a few weeks' high feeding at this period will not only nourish the foal which she is carrying, but will furnish her with a supply of nourishment for it against its birth. The pasture into which the mare is turned should also be well provided with sweet water and with shelter; the foal will be the better for running the entire year at the side of his dam. The thoroughbred mare being of a more artificial constitution, demands some extra care at the period of foaling, and requires to be taken up and put into a loose box; she should also have a couple of feeds of grain in the day. This is the period when abortion usually occurs; the eye, therefore, of the owner should be constantly on the mare. Moderate exercise and good feeding are about the best preventives. Mr. Youatt observes, that the *imagination* exercises a powerful influence on mares, and therefore desires that a mare liable to abortion should

not be kept with others that have gone to the fifth or sixth month, lest her example should infect them with the disease. We have also had reason to conceive abortion in mares to be sometimes epizootic.

Should the mare experience any difficulty in delivery, it is advisable in every case to call in a regularly educated veterinary surgeon, and on no account to permit the rude quackery of itinerant sow-gelders, or cow-doctors, or "horse-doctors," as they style themselves. Many a valuable mare, and many a foal that would have turned out a credit to its breeder, has been thus lost. After foaling, the mare should be again turned into a good pasture, well supplied with water and shelter; and if she have foaled early, say in April, and the grass is scanty, let her have a feed or two of oats or Indian corn per day; if the corn be given in a trough upon the ground, the foal will partake of it along with its dam. When the grass becomes plentiful, the corn may be diminished, or even discontinued.

There are some breeders whom we can only designate as fools, who treat their foals with a degree of negligence that marks them extremely ignorant of the principles of Nature, or extremely blind to their own interests. It cannot be too strongly impressed upon the minds of all such, that the proper care of young foals will repay a hundredfold: that this is, in short, the most critical period of the animal's life, and that where attention or its reverse produces the most striking and lasting results.

We have stated that, if it answer the convenience of the farmer, the foal may be permitted to run for twelve months at the foot of the mare; but when mares are kept expressly for breeding purposes, many circumstances combine to render this objectionable. Within about six weeks from foaling, the mare will be again at heat, and should be put to the horse; she may then also resume light work. At first the foal should be shut up in the stable during working hours, but as it acquires sufficient strength, it is better to allow it to follow its dam. The work will contribute to the health of the mother, and increase her flow of milk, and by accompanying her the foal will suck more frequently, thrive better, acquire *tameness*—no slight consideration—and will

become gradually familiarized with the objects among which it is afterwards to live. Under these circumstances the foal may, if the farmer chooses, be weaned at the age of six months. For this purpose it should be either housed, or turned into some pasture or rick-yard at a distance from the dam. The latter should also get a few purgative balls in order to remove the milk, and the foal should be well and liberally fed every morning and evening. Bruised oats and bran are about the best description of feeding that could be adopted, and towards the end of summer the foal may be turned out to general pasture without fear of his again seeking his dam. Too much pampering will, however, prove as injudicious as neglect, and should consequently be equally avoided. Should the foal be a male, and emasculation be desirable, it is a good plan to perform the operation at the period of weaning, in order that the one trouble shall serve for both occasions. This, however, must not be done if weaning have taken place in the months of June or July when the *fly* abounds, which by its attacks will promote restlessness and consequent inflammation, and retard convalescence. Early spring, or an advanced period of the autumn, are the best periods. Let no itinerant impostor, or village quack, be the operator, unless you really desire to lose your colt. Call in a regular veterinary surgeon; leave the operation in his hands, and attend implicitly to his directions as to after-treatment. Nothing is more unwise as well as unfair than to neglect the directions given by the operator, which may produce perhaps fatal results, and then blame him, and perhaps cast an undeserved slur upon his professional character. Indeed, for the sucking foal scarcely any further after-treatment than simple quiet is necessary, but bleeding and the exhibition of aperients are advisable for a colt of more advanced age. There is now no risk attendant upon the emasculation of a horse of any age, as an *insurance* can be effected at a trifling per centage, and most regular veterinary surgeons will themselves be found willing to entertain the proposal.

One thing deserves mention: when a horse is suffered to attain two-thirds of his growth, prior to emasculation, you obtain an animal of far superior form, power, and value,

to that which has been operated upon when a foal. It is as well to bear this in mind, as the insurance principle which has already been alluded to obviates all risk on the part of the proprietor. At the same time I cannot but cordially condemn the practice of emasculating horses at all.

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## CHAPTER XIV.

### THE ART OF BREAKING OR TRAINING.

THE next part of the rearing consists in *breaking*. There is no greater mistake than to postpone this. It should, in fact, be commenced at the very period of weaning, or as soon as the effects of the operation alluded to have passed away; it should, in this manner, be commenced and prosecuted *gradually*, with gentleness and kindness. Let the young animal be daily handled, caressed, and led about, and let him occasionally be rubbed down, and even at times tied up for an hour or so. The man who *feeds* the colt should have the entire management of him at this time, and he should be a respectable person, characterised by equanimity of temper and a kindly disposition. Half the battle, so to speak, in horse-training consists in this early management: many a horse is spoiled and rendered permanently intractable by early harshness or improper treatment, and many a horse that might otherwise have turned out a vicious, unmanageable brute, has been moulded into a gentle, affectionate, and useful servant by the judicious treatment of those who first inducted him into the knowledge of his duty.

For the first year, such treatment as we have described will suffice; after the second winter the operation of training may commence in good earnest. The horse must be first *bitted*, but the bit at first used must be small, and of such form as will not hurt his mouth. The work of *bitting* may occupy three or four days. When the colt becomes accustomed to the bit, he may then have two long ropes attached



to it, slightly fastened to his sides by a loose girth over the back, and his feeder may thus *drive* him, as it were, round a field, pulling upon him as he proceeds. This will act as a first lesson in *draught*. If intended as a saddle horse, a pair of sand bags may be thrown across his back, and secured there, and after a while, when he has become used to this, a *crutch*, or two pieces of wood secured in the position of a St. Andrew's cross, may be fastened upon his back, the inferior extremities grasping his sides, and thus inuring him to the *legs* of a rider.

Portions of harness may now, from time to time, be added, the *winkers* being kept for the last. He may now be put in a *team*, and it is better he should be one of *three*, having one before him and the shaft horse behind him. Mr. Youatt, indeed, recommends that it should be a team of *four*, i. e., a *leader*, then the colt, then the *horse behind him*, and then the shaft horse. It is best to begin draught on grass where the colt will not be frightened with the noise of the wheels. He has enough to occupy his thoughts without that, and the grand secret consists in not hurrying or confusing him. Let everything proceed gradually and by successive stages, and above all, let me entreat that no *whip* or *harsh language* be permitted to be used.

Breeders of horses are very apt to fall into a common fault, viz., of postponing the breaking of them to a period comparatively advanced, and then fancying that the training can be at once perfected. We have endeavoured to show that the work of training should be a gradual and progressive one, and that it should rather consist of a consecutive system of judicious management than be converted into a separate piece of business, suddenly undertaken and summarily performed. If the colt has been treated as we have recommended, much subsequent trouble will be saved his owner; and if it were generally so treated, there would be fewer instances of vice and sulkiness displayed by the adult horse.

All horses, especially such as are required for agricultural purposes, should be broken into the saddle as well as to harness. This is easily effected when once the animal has suf-

ferred himself to be yoked in the *team*, as already described. Let his accustomed feeder and handler be the first to mount him; there is no doubt that the colt will suffer him to do so without struggling, and *gentleness alone* is requisite to complete the lesson thus auspiciously begun. At the same time that mildness is absolutely necessary, it is not the less essential that the colt be taught *implicit obedience* to the will of its master. For this purpose, however, neither the whip nor spur must be employed, nor must he be shouted or halloed at; nothing is required but *firmness, steadiness, and patience*—the three great requisites in a successful horse-breaker.

When the colt has acquired the art of *drawing* and *carrying*, it will be time to instruct him in, perhaps, the most difficult part of his duty—*backing*. This must be done *cautiously* at first, by the *long rope*, as already described, and gradually. Let first a light cart, and then a loaded one be added; let care be taken *not to hurt the mouth* with the bit: many a good and valuable horse has been spoiled by this bad management. Patience and gentleness will effect everything; a contrary course of treatment will generate vice. As Youatt says—"Few, it may almost be said, no horses, are naturally vicious. It is cruel usage which has first provoked resistance. That resistance has been followed by greater severity, and the stubbornness of the animal has increased. Open warfare has ensued, in which the man has seldom gained advantage, and the horse has been frequently rendered unserviceable. Correction may, or must be used, to enforce implicit obedience after the education has proceeded to a certain extent, but the early lessons should be inculcated with kindness alone. Young colts are sometimes very perverse. Many days will occasionally pass before they will permit the bridle to be put on, or the saddle to be worn; and one act of harshness will double or treble this time. Patience and kindness, however, will always prevail."

A similar system is to be observed in breaking horses for hunting or racing, and at about three years old the regular course of training may be begun. The colt is first accustomed to be led, and to endure the rein; he is then

*run*, as it is called, upon soft ground. He is next mounted, and gradually taught his several paces, from the walk to the trot, canter, and gallop. Each portion of the colt's duty should constitute a separate lesson, and be taught him perfectly and thoroughly before proceeding to the next. The earlier lessons should be short; but as the animal's education advances, they may be increased in length, always, however, taking care not to push them to such a pitch as to produce absolute fatigue or disgust.

When accustomed to his paces, the colt may gradually be brought into the thoroughfare, and at length into the street. In this, of course, much caution must be used; and if the young patient display symptoms of shying at any object, he must be cautiously brought to approach it, and made sensible of its innocuous nature. It would far exceed our limits were we to enter into a lengthened dissertation upon horse-breaking generally; we have, we conceive, now done enough in explaining the principle. Any man of common understanding, united with a moderate share of skill, courage, and skill in riding, can effect the rest.

Having now supposed your horses broken, reared, and in actual service in their respective occupations, it will naturally be expected that we should offer some advice relative to their feeding and general management.

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## CHAPTER XV.

### FEEDING AND GENERAL MANAGEMENT.

HALF the disorders to which horses are subject, may be traced to improper or careless management, which principally runs into two extremes—1st, too close confinement in ill-ventilated stables; 2nd, want of sufficient shelter; and exposure to all weathers, and at all seasons, in the open fields. If, however, it were absolutely necessary to run into either extreme, we should say that of the two the former is most certain to produce bad consequences, and that if, as the saying runs, "the worst went to the worst,"

we prefer risking the chances of the latter. There is another serious fault frequently committed in horse management—it relates to feeding. Half the diseases of the horse owe their origin to the causes just recited, the other half may be assigned to over-feeding with *hay*. This applies more particularly to young horses, and to such as are not put to severe work. They are ever placed before a full rack, and just as children with bread and butter, they eat merely for amusement, until at length the stomach gradually becomes preternaturally distended, the appetite gradually increases in a relative proportion, becomes sooner or later voracious, and finally merges into a mere *craving*—it being a matter of indifference what the food is, so that the stomach is filled by it. This depravity of appetite is always accompanied by more or less thirst. I have known instances of a horse so affected drinking *stale urine* at the dung tank; and I have read of instances where *hog's-wash*, and even on one occasion *whitewash* was drunk, to the serious injury of the horse's mouth or stomach. This devouring of trash naturally enough produces general debility of the entire digestive function, including stomach, bowels, liver, spleen, and pancreas; worms are produced in thousands, and symptoms present themselves, of so many varied hues, that enumeration, far less classification, were utterly impossible.

A horse's appetite is not to be taken as the criterion by which to determine the quantity of hay he is to be permitted to consume, for most horses will eat three or four times as much as they ought. Horses have been known to consume thirty pounds weight of hay between a day and a night, and ten pounds is the most that should have been given during that time. Upon eight pounds of hay daily, with a due allowance of oats, a horse can be kept in full work, in prime health and spirits. It is better to keep young horses at grass until about five years old, and to work them during that period. When kept in the stable and not worked, they are apt to acquire many very bad habits; and if the rack and manger be kept empty, with a view to prevent their overloading their stomachs, they will fall into a habit of playing with and

mouthings them—a habit which will finally degenerate into wind-sucking or crib-biting.

We shall say a few words on these subjects *seriatim*.

As to the STABLE. The great desideratum in a stable is *ventilation*. A horse requires air equally with his master; and as the latter requires a *chimney* to his sleeping apartment, so does the former. The chimney may be a mere outlet opening through the ceiling, or it may be formed as a dome or cupola. It should not, of course, be open at *top*, or rain will get in, but roofed over, and an opening at the sides, by weather-boards. Besides this, there should be openings in the wall, near the ground, but not in the stalls. This will produce a thorough air, and may be so placed as not to expose the horses to *draught*. The stable should not be less than twelve feet high, from floor to ceiling, and the former should be well paved, slope slightly backwards, and along the back of the stalls should run a gutter, about a foot wide and an inch or two deep. No stable should be less than eighteen feet deep, and each stall should be at least six feet *clear*; but if eight feet can be afforded, so much the better. Although some horses will agree when kept together in the one stall, it is far better to give each a stall to himself. The manger should be about sixteen inches deep, the same from front to back, narrower at bottom than at top, and two feet in length. The rack is best when closed in front, the back part being an inclined plane of wood, sloping gradually towards the front, and terminating about two feet down. This rack effects a considerable saving in hay, for we need scarcely remind our readers that, in the common rack, much of the hay given is dragged down and trampled in the litter. It also prevents the hay-seed from falling into the horse's eyes, for the rack, such as we recommend, is on a level with the manger, and about three feet from the ground. Another advantage also gained by this rack is the facility with which it can be filled, thus obviating all necessity for a loft over the stable, and, consequently, admitting of greater height of ceiling as well as superior ventilation.

The windows and the doors should be at opposite ends; this promotes ventilation: the former at the south-east

extremity of the building; the latter should be divided transversely like an ordinary barn door, at the height of about four feet from the ground. The upper portion may thus be occasionally open. *Whitewash* is a bad dressing for the interior of a stable, as it causes too great a glare of light; *paint* of a leaden colour is best, and it can be *washed* from time to time with soap and water. There should be a *bin*, divided properly into partitions, for oats, beans, &c., and this is better at the back of the stable, and may be made to answer the purpose, both as regards utility and ornament, of a seat.

A few buckets of water dashed over the floor of the stable while the horses are at work, or, if hunters, at exercise, will keep all sweet. The litter should also be turned out to dry, and a little fresh straw spread for the horses to stale on. A shed placed beside the stable is a great advantage, on two accounts—it admits of the litter being dried, and the horse dressed there in wet or stormy weather.

A little powdered gypsum, strewn upon the stable floor, will also act by absorbing the ammoniacal gas, and thus removing both the foul smell and the gas—a frequent predisposing cause of ophthalmia. Should the ammonia, however, have accumulated in any quantity, the speediest and most efficacious remedy, as a disinfectant, is the laying down a plate or dish containing muriatic acid.

Having spoken sufficiently on the subject of stable management, and its natural concomitant, dressing and grooming, we now conceive it necessary to devote a few words to the consideration of *horses at grass*. We may now premise, that—unless where a farmer or breeder has a number of young horses that he wants to be cheaply rid of for the season, in which case he may, with advantage to himself and them, put them out to grass at a trifle per week—house-soiling is supposed to possess decided advantages over grazing, for not only will the animal be preserved in *harder condition*, but his *dung* alone will go a considerable way towards paying for his keep. Still, however, there are certain months of the year when the putting the horse to grass will be productive of decided improvement

in his health, will invigorate his constitution, renovate his hooves, and serve, in all respects, in place of medicine. The time for turning the horse to grass is from the middle of May to the end of August. Horses in constant work, however, should not be suffered to be out at night after the end of July. When first turned out, horses are apt to make too free with clover and other such rank and luscious feeding, and they should not, therefore, be turned into the richest pasture at first. Clover, vetches, sainfoin, lucerne, are all very excellent descriptions of feeding, whether the horse be suffered to graze them from the field, or be given cut in his rack in the stable. To these may be added Italian rye-grass, the value of which is beginning to be appreciated of late years more than ever.

If the weather be wet or cold, let the horses be taken in during the night, and let the field be provided with trees, a shed, or other similar shelter from the rain or sun. If you make them work as usual, give a feed of equal parts of oats and chaff each morning, two hours before putting on the collar, and the same on return from work before putting them out. This is necessary to working horses, as a counterpoise to the *green food* which forms the staple of their diet. Much absurdity has been written as to the necessity of bleeding, purging, and what not, consequent upon every change of food: the only precaution necessary to be observed is, to effect the change gradually, and to *work* the horses. Idleness is the cause of more ailments than ever change of diet was amongst the finer descriptions of horses at these seasons. As winter approaches, the horses are to be taken up from grass, both because at that season the herbage becomes too scant to afford sufficient food, and because the weather is usually too cold for constant exposure. There can, however, be no precise rule of month or day laid down to direct you: you must judge of your horse's condition and capabilities, and of the state of the weather peculiar to the season. The first step, however, will be the housing at night, and turning out in the daytime.

As to the general feeding of horses—let them be always *fed according to their work*. The materials, besides those

we have enumerated, are various: split peas, split beans, oats, barley, chaff, chopped straw, potatoes, turnips, carrots, bran, &c. It is, in Ireland, too much the custom to feed working horses exclusively upon *oats*, with, of course, *hay* as usual, and too often *ad libitum*. In England, the matter is better understood, and beans, peas, and various sorts of roots, are advantageously substituted for the oats. This should be a matter of no mean consideration at present, when, from the failure of the potato crop, oatmeal has become a more than ordinary portion of human diet, it is but proper that, wherever any substance equally good can be substituted as a food for animals, it should be so.

We have already shown what a waste of hay takes place in stable-fed horses, and how it may be avoided. This avoidance of waste is of itself a piece of important economy. You will hear people often talk too much of *hard* and of *soft* food; and you will, on the other hand, hear others cry down these expressions as absurd. *Literally*, the expressions involve error, but the meaning intended to be conveyed is strictly true. It is no doubt true that every description of food, whatever have been its consistence prior to its reception into the mouth, will, upon elimination, become converted into the same homogeneous, pulsatious mass. It is, however, not the less true that some substances are richer in *chyle*-producing powers than others, while others possess a greater amount of watery or diluent matter. The former is hard, the latter soft feeding. A due proportion of these two descriptions of feeding must be maintained, if we wish to preserve the horse in health and condition. It is, however, unnecessary that these two descriptions of diet should be presented to the stomach in their crude state; it is, on the contrary, more advantageous to prepare them previously, and present them to the digestive organs in a partially changed state, in which they are more ready to be assimilated. This saves the digestive organs much unnecessary labour, and the work of chymification goes on with much greater rapidity.

This mode of feeding horses was tried some years ago, by an extensive coach proprietor in Scotland, Mr. Croall.



It was, we believe, at the suggestion of Captain Cheyne, who had at the time become connected with the coach business, that it was tried. The post-boys at first loudly protested against the innovation, declaring that the horses could never work as before on the new diet, decrying it as *soft diet*, and insisting that without *hard feeding* it would cause *purging*. Fifteen pounds of the following mixture were given to each horse :—

10 bushels of cut straw,	...	...	...	90 lbs.
6    "    bruised oats,	...	...	...	174   "
1    "    bruised beans,	...	...	...	59   "
				<hr/>
				323 lbs.

Or separately to each horse—

Oats,	...	...	...	...	8 lbs.
Beans,	...	...	...	...	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Straw,	...	...	...	...	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
					<hr/>
					15 lbs.

And at night the following mixture, 25 lbs. to each horse—

1 boll of potatoes, at 7s. 6d., 5 cwt., steamed,	560 lbs.
Fine barley dust, at 10d. per stone, ...	36   "
Cut straw, at 6d. per stone, ...	40   "
Salt, at 3s. per cwt., ...	6   "

From this it appeared that the daily cost of each horse per day was 5d. for supper, and about 1s. for forage and cookery—about 1s. 6d.—wages of feeder and cook, and expense of fuel included. It was also found that the horses were able to stand to their work on this system of feeding far better than they had been able to do on the old. It therefore became apparent, that not only was economy of feeding attained under the new mode of management—the cost of each horse being somewhat under 9s. per week—but that the animals were actually in better case, able to go through a better day's work, and, consequently, to *pay better* the expense of their keep. The above result reminds us of a similar experiment, tried with reference to *pigs*, and which proved equally successful, recorded in detail in my work on those animals.

The common farm-horse often passes years upon grass or hay alone, and, if not hard worked, supports himself in tolerable condition. Hay and grass will not, however, support a horse in condition under severe labour—some more nutritious, more *condensed* substance is required. Throughout the greater portion of the British islands, this desideratum has been chiefly furnished by the use of OATS. Oats are of a highly nutritious quality. In 1,000 parts, they contain 750 of nourishing matter. In most parts of the continent of Europe, BARLEY is the staple food of the horse in lieu of oats. It is more nutritious than oats, containing only 80 parts of non-nutritious matter in every 1,000. Barley, however, would not appear to agree with all constitutions, being of a heating or inflammatory tendency; *surfeit* and *mange* being frequently consequent upon its continued use.

WHEAT contains still more nutritious matter in a given bulk than barley, and is not so good to be given to horses. This has been proved by instances where spoiled or damaged wheat has been given, and has been productive of the most disagreeable consequences. It contains more *gluten* than any other sort of grain, and is difficult of digestion, and apt to form congestion in the intestines.

BRAN, the ground husk of wheat, acts upon the bowels, when given occasionally, as a gentle aperient; it must not, however, be made a frequent food, far less a constant one. Both bran and pollard have been found to accumulate in the large intestines. When bran is given, let it be in the form of a mash.

BEANS contain somewhat less than 600 parts of nutritive matter in the 1,000, but they are a most valuable food, eminently calculated for horses on hard work. There is a fact in connection with food, whether as relating to man or to the brute creation, that is scarcely even yet sufficiently understood, viz., that the food containing and showing, by analysis, the greatest amount of nutritive ingredients, is not of necessity the most nutritious. Beans present a remarkable instance of this fact, and one worthy of attention.

PEAS possess a slight degree more nutritive matter than

beans, and are said to be less heating. They should, however, never be given *whole*, but be always previously *crushed*. If swallowed whole, they are sure to swell considerably in the stomach, and painfully to distend it. Peas-meal, called in Scotland *brosemeal*, is considered good food for the horse, and a remedy in certain diseases of the urinary organs.

The following extract from *The Quarterly Journal of Agriculture*, in which Mr. Brown, of Elgin, details the mode in which he fed from twelve to twenty horses for upwards of twenty-five years, may prove both interesting and practically useful:—"In the first place, I shall state that the *straw* of wheat, barley, oats, and peas, is the only fodder I have given my horses for the above period, and that their *feed* or *bait* has been all *prepared*. I have, close to the stables, an apartment in which are placed a boiler of about 300 gallons content, and a steamer capable of steaming 20 bushels of potatoes. In the boiler I prepare a mixture of chaff, yellow turnips, and about a bushel of *lights*, or dressings of barley, oats, or peas. The light grain and chaff are mixed, after being carefully sifted, and put into the boiler layer about with turnips, which, if large, are cut into three or four pieces, along with about fifty gallons of water, making the boiler *bumper full*. When the steam begins to appear at the top of the boiler, a small quantity of salt is strewed on the top of the mixture; and by the time the steam ascends freely from the boiling substance, it is time to damp the fire, as it is found that the heat from below sufficiently prepares the upper layers, and that to continue the fire longer only wastes fuel, and overdoes the bottom of the mixture.

"When the heat has so far subsided as to allow a person to remove the mixture without inconvenience, it is thrown into a cooler placed close to the boiler, and is given to the horses at the rate of a common stable pail-full each, twice a-day when they are working short time, and thrice a-day when they are working long time. In this way I feed my horses from the first of October till about the middle or latter end of April, by which time the spring corns are generally all thrashed out, and the lights or dressing ac-

cruing from them exhausted. From that time I substitute steamed potatoes for the mixture. These I carefully wash before putting them into the steamer, and to them I also add a little salt during the steaming operation. They are also given twice and thrice a-day in the same quantities as the mixed food. The potatoes I steam every day, as, if kept over night, they become glutinous and indigestible, and are dangerous to give to horses in such quantities as I have mentioned; but if used fresh steamed, they may be given in any quantity. The steamer has a false bottom, through which the liquid or juice from the potatoes is drained off, and the potatoes, when thus prepared, are as dry, clean, and mealy as those generally used at table. I find them excellent food for horses doing farm work; indeed, I would prefer them to any other food; but potatoes are a bad cleaning crop, and do not suit my rotation, hence I grow but few of them, but manage to have a sufficient supply to carry on my working stock from the middle or latter end of April till the 1st of July, when I have fulness of grass for either pasturage or soiling my horses till the 1st of October."

For the last year or two, the potato crop having been a total failure, it is not unnatural that fear should be entertained for the coming season. Should it ever, however, prove a good average crop, it is probable that *too few potatoes* have been planted to leave any to spare for horse feeding, as they will be bought up at a higher price for human food. Still, however, it will be necessary, in horse and cattle feeding, to adopt some substitute; we would, therefore, recommend *Indian corn*, ground or bruised, to be combined with turnips, carrots, or parsnips, whichever, indeed, of those vegetables should happen to be most plentiful, and in this state to be added to the mess and steamed along with it.

Indeed, Indian corn in combination with roots boiled or steamed, forms a valuable article of diet for most graminivorous quadrupeds. Horses, cattle, swine, and poultry will all eat the mess with an avidity of appetite calculated to excite surprise at first. The mess, to which a little salt should invariably be added, will keep them in fair average condition, and those which it is desirable to fatten may have a small quantity of pea or bean meal added.

## CHAPTER XVI.

## HORSE-TAMING AND ITS SECRETS.

It appears to me that it were as well to introduce here some remarks relative to the subjugation of horses which are either naturally vicious or have been rendered so by improper treatment. It is unnecessary for me to add, that the former are a hundred-fold more easily subdued than the latter: these are, indeed, in some instances rendered wholly irreclaimable.

The principal danger and inconvenience attendant upon vice in a horse, consists in the difficulty attendant upon approaching, securing, handling, or dressing him. The situations in which the vicious animal is found require to be considered separately—viz., in the stable, fastened to the manger, saddled, harnessed, or naked and at liberty. Previous to approaching any horse, it is necessary to form some sort of judgment of his moral character, and this will be gathered from his physiognomy and gesture, with far more certainty than from the reports of those about him. If the eyes be wild and threatening, if rapid glances be thrown around, if the ears be thrown backward, be cautious not only how you approach, but how you quit him. If you approach a horse in the stable, do not do so abruptly, but first speak to him, and order him to "*bout*." If he obey, and move to one side, you may approach up close to his shoulder, seizing the halter in your hand the moment you arrive there. If his head be then kept down he can do no mischief, especially if the right hand be laid on the horse's shoulder, and the body extended so as to keep at a sufficient distance from the forelegs. While thus held, the horse may be barnacled, blinded, muzzled, hobbled, or, in short, done anything you please with. If a vicious horse have his eyes bandaged, and be rapidly turned round and round a few times, he will become passive, and this plan has succeeded where all other means have failed. Never

approach a horse from the *right* side ; it is from this side he *kicks*.

One or two instances of persons possessing unwonted power over horses, are on record. One is related in "The Veterinarian," 1844. This was a trainer who was in the habit of purchasing up all the supposed irreclaimably vicious horses he could hear of, if otherwise promising, and these, in an incredibly short period of time, he would produce thoroughly tame, as quiet, indeed, as so many lambs. The secret was a simple one: the trainer had a *lead* knob at the end of his whip, and with this he struck the animal on the nape of the neck every time it kicked, plunged, or showed any sign of vice. This came on the creature like an electric shock ; and being struck on a part so sensitive, it soon ceased to resist, and stood for a moment as if stunned. The trainer then caressed, it, and spoke to it coaxingly, and gradually succeeded in bringing it to do all that he required. It was by thus alternately using severity and kindness that he succeeded, not only in rendering two stallions docile, but also in subduing a number of other fiery, untameable animals which he purchased almost for nothing. Many a vicious horse has also been tamed by being ridden furiously over heavy ploughed land, until his strength was perfectly exhausted. In Germany, it is a common practice to suspend furious horses in a frame until their strength is exhausted. Starvation, bleeding, narcotics, have severally been tried with a view to taming a vicious horse: these remedies will, however, be generally found to have only a temporary effect, and they are more or less calculated to prove prejudicial to the animal's health. I have happened to make one or two notes relative to extraordinary powers of horse-taming possessed by individuals. The following is from the pen of Mr. Castley, in "The Veterinarian":—

"When a young man, I remember purchasing a horse at a fair in the north of England, that was offered very cheap, on account of his being unmanageable. It was said that nobody could ride him. We found that the animal objected to have anything placed on his back, and that when made to move forward with nothing more than a

saddle on, he instantly threw himself down on his side with great violence, and would then endeavour to roll upon his back.

"There was at that time in Yorkshire, a famous colt-breaker, known by the name of JUMPER, who was almost as celebrated in that country for taming vicious horses into submission, as the famed WHISPERER was in Ireland. We put this animal into Jumper's hands, who took him away, and in about ten days brought him home again, certainly not looking worse in condition, but perfectly subdued, and almost as obedient as a dog; for he would lie down at this man's bidding, and only rise up again at his command, and carry double or anything. I took to riding him myself, and may say that I was never better carried for six or eight months, during which time he did not show the least vice whatever. I then sold him to a Lincolnshire farmer, who said that he would give him a summer's run at grass, and show him as a very fine horse at the great Horncastle fair. Happening to meet this gentleman on the following year, I naturally enough inquired after my old friend. 'Oh,' said he, that was a bad business: the horse turned out a sad rebel. The first time we attempted to mount him, after getting him up from grass, he in an instant threw the man down with the greatest violence, pitching him several yards over his head; and after that he threw every one that attempted to get on his back. If he could not throw his rider, *he would throw himself down*. We could do nothing with him, and I was obliged at last to sell him to go in a stage-coach.'"

The next account is of SULLIVAN, the celebrated Irish horse-tamer, whose peculiar method of effecting the desired end procured for him the title of "THE WHISPERER." The following notice of this remarkable person appears in Townsend's "Survey of the County of Cork":—"James Sullivan was a native of Cork, and an awkward, ignorant rustic, of the lowest class, generally known by the appellation of 'The Whisperer,' and his profession was horse-breaking. The credulity of the vulgar bestowed that epithet upon him, from an opinion that he communicated his wishes to the animal by means of a whisper, and the sin-

gularity of his method gave some colour to the superstitious belief. As far as the sphere of his control extended, the boast of '*veni vidi vici*,' was more justly claimed by James Sullivan than by Cæsar or even Bonaparte himself. How his art was acquired, or in what it consisted, is likely to remain for ever unknown, as he has lately left the world without divulging it. His son, who follows the same occupation, possesses but a small portion of the art, having either never learned the true secret, or being incapable of putting it in practice. The wonder of his skill consisted in the short time requisite to accomplish his design, which was performed in private, and without any apparent means of coercion. Every description of horse, or even mule, whether previously broke or unhandled, whatever their peculiar vices or ill habits might have been, submitted, without show of resistance, to the magical influence of his art, and in the short space of half-an-hour, became gentle and tractable. The effect, though instantaneously produced, was generally durable; though more submissive to him than to others, yet they seemed to have acquired a docility unknown before. When sent for to tame a vicious horse, he directed the stable in which he and the subject of his experiment were placed to be shut, with orders not to open the door until a signal was given. After a *tête-à-tête* between him and the horse for about half-an-hour, during which little or no bustle was heard, the signal was made, and on opening the door the horse was seen lying down, and the man by his side, playing familiarly with him, like a child with a puppy dog. From that time he was found perfectly willing to submit to discipline, however repugnant to his nature before. Some saw his skill tried on a horse which could never be brought to stand for a smith to shoe him. The day after Sullivan's half-hour lecture, I went, not without some incredulity, to the smith's shop, with many other curious spectators, where we were eye-witnesses of the complete success of his art. This, too, had been a troop-horse, and it was supposed, not without reason, that after regimental discipline had failed, no other would be found availing. I observed that the animal seemed afraid whenever Sullivan either spoke or looked at him. How that extraordinary



ascendancy could have been obtained, it is difficult to conjecture. In common cases this mysterious preparation was unnecessary. He seemed to possess an instinctive power of inspiring awe, the result, perhaps, of natural intrepidity, in which I believe a great part of his art consisted; though the circumstance of the *tête-à-tête* shows that upon particular occasions something more must have been added to it. A faculty like this would, in other hands, have made a fortune: and great offers had been made to him for the exercise of his art abroad; but hunting and attachment to his native soil, were his ruling passions. He lived at home in the style most agreeable to his disposition, and nothing could induce him to quit Duhallow and the foxhounds."

To resume. Some years since I met with a person named O'Hara, whose performances I can affirm to have been truly wonderful, and very similar to those described as having been performed by Sullivan. Whether O'Hara was acquainted with Sullivan's secret or not, I cannot say, but he seemed, at all events, able to produce equally surprising effects. On one occasion, when under the influence of liquor, O'Hara was heard to declare that *his* secret lay in *rocking* the horse; but on another occasion, when equally tipsy, he spoke of *biting* the animal's ear or lip, I forget which, but think it was the former.

The following anecdote is related of Sullivan by Mr. Castley, in "The Veterinarian":—"At the spring meeting of 1804, Mr. Whaley's KING PIPPIN was brought on the Curragh of Kildare to run. He was a horse of the most extraordinary savage and vicious disposition. His particular propensity was that of *flying at* and *worrying* any person who came within his reach; and if he had an opportunity he would get his head round, seize his rider in the leg with his teeth, and drag him down from his back. For this reason he was always ridden with what is called a *sword*, which is a strong, flat stick, having one end attached to the check of the bridle, and the other to the girth of the saddle—a contrivance to prevent a horse of this kind from getting at his rider.

"KING PIPPIN had long been difficult to manage, and dangerous to go near to, but on the occasion in question

he could not be got out to run at all. *Nobody could put the bridle on his head.* It being Easter Monday, and consequently a great holiday, there was a large concourse of people assembled on the Curragh, consisting principally of the neighbouring peasantry; and one countryman, more fearless than the rest of the lookers-on, forgetting, or perhaps never dreaming that the better part of courage is discretion, volunteered his services to bridle the horse. No sooner had he committed himself in this operation, than King Pippin seized him somewhere about the shoulders or chest, and, says Mr. Watts (Mr. Castley's informant), 'I know of nothing I can compare it to so much as a dog shaking a rat.' Fortunately for the poor fellow, his body was very thickly covered with clothes, for, on such occasions, an Irishman of this class is fond of displaying his wardrobe, and if he has three coats at all in the world, he is sure to put them all on. This circumstance, in all probability, saved the individual who had so gallantly volunteered the forlorn hope. His person was so deeply enveloped in extra integuments, that the horse never got fairly hold of his skin, and I understand that he escaped with but little injury, beside the sadly rent and totally ruined state of his holiday toggery. The 'WHISPERER' was sent for, who, having arrived, was shut up with the horse all night, and in the morning he exhibited this hitherto ferocious animal following him about the course like a dog—lying down at his command, suffering his mouth to be opened, and any person's hand to be introduced into it; in short, as quiet almost as a sheep. He came out the same meeting, and won his race, and his docility continued satisfactory for a considerable time; but, at the end of about three years, his vice returned, and then he is said to have killed a man, for which he was destroyed."

Some time ago an article, in connexion with the subject of horse-taming, appeared in the *Times* newspaper, in which allusion was made to Mr. King, proprietor of "the learned horse," then exhibiting in London; and it was stated that Mr. King professed his art to depend on the *compression of a certain nerve* in the horse's mouth, called "the nerve of susceptibility."

The secret of Sullivan's summary mode of taming the horse is likely ever to remain a mystery ; but it is certain that a power little removed from his is attainable by a very simple process. That Sullivan's son, however, either had not inherited the secret from his father, or was unable to put it in practice, is evident from the many failures which attended his attempts. Amongst others, we take the following from Mr. Castley's account :—"We had in the regiment a remarkably nice horse called Lancer, that has always been very difficult to shoe ; but seven or eight years ago, when we first got him, he was downright vicious in that respect. When the regiment was stationed in Cork, the farrier-major sought out the present Sullivan, the son of the celebrated Whisperer, and brought him up to the barracks, in order to try his hand upon Lancer, and make him more peaceable to shoe ; but I must say this person did not appear to possess any particular controlling power over the animal more than any other man. Lancer seemed to pay no attention whatever to his charm, and at last fairly *beat him out of the forge*."

An account published some years ago by Mr. Catlin, whose experience among the American Indians has obtained for him so much celebrity, bids fair to solve the mystery, or at least to suggest some important inferences. He thus describes the mode in which the Indians tame the wild horse. "He coils the *lasso* on his arm, and gallops fearlessly into the herd of wild horses. He soon gets it over the neck of one of the number, when he instantly dismounts, leaving his own horse, and runs as fast as he can, letting the lasso pass out gradually and carefully through his hands, until the horse falls for want of breath, and lies helpless on the ground. The Indian advances slowly towards the horse's head, keeping the lasso tight upon his neck, until he fastens a pair of hobbles on the animal's two forefeet, and also loosens the lasso, giving the horse a chance to breathe, and passing a noose round the under jaw, by which he gets great power over the affrighted animal, that is rearing and plunging when it gets breath, and by which, as he advances, hand over hand, towards the horse's nose, he is able to hold it down,

and prevent it from throwing itself over on its back. By this means he gradually advances, until he is able to place his hand on the animal's nose, and over its eyes, and at length to *breathe into his nostrils*, when it soon becomes docile and conquered, so that he has little else to do than to remove the hobbles from its feet, and lead or ride it to the camp. The animal is so completely conquered that it submits quietly ever after, and is led or rode away with very little difficulty."

Mr. Youatt, in his excellent volume on "The Horse," gives the following interesting note:—"Mr. Ellis, B.A., of Trinity College, Cambridge, happened to read this (Mr. Catlin's) account, and he felt a natural desire to ascertain how far this mode of HORSE-TAMING might be employed among British horses. He soon had the opportunity of putting the veracity of the story to the test. His brother-in-law had a filly, not yet a year old, that had been removed from her dam three months before, and since that time had not been taken out of the stable. A great amateur in everything relating to horses was present, and at his request, it was determined that the experiment of the efficacy of breathing into the nostrils should be immediately put to the test. The filly was brought from the stable, the amateur leading her by the halter. She was quite wild, and bolted, and dragged the amateur a considerable distance. He had been using a short halter, he changed it for a longer one, and was then able to lead the little scared thing to the front of the house.

"The experiment was tried under manifest disadvantage, for the filly was in the open air, several strangers were about her, and both the owner and the amateur were rather seeking amusement from the failure, than knowledge from the success, of their experiment.

"The filly was restive and frightened, and with great difficulty the amateur managed to cover her eyes. At length he succeeded, and *blew* into the nostrils. No particular effect seemed to follow. He then *breathed* into her nostrils, and the moment he did so, the filly who had very much resisted having her eyes blindfolded, and had been very restive, stood perfectly still, and trembled. From that

time she became very tractable. Another gentleman also breathed into her nostrils, and she evidently enjoyed it, and kept putting up her nose to receive the breaths.

"On the following morning she was led out again; she was perfectly tractable, and it seemed to be almost impossible to frighten her. A circumstance which, in a great measure, corroborated the possibility of easily taming the most ferocious horses, occurred on the next day. A man in a neighbouring farm was attempting to break in a very restive colt, which foiled him in every possible way. After several manœuvres, the amateur succeeded in breathing into one of the nostrils, and from that moment all became easy. The horse was completely subdued. He suffered himself to be led quietly away with a loose halter, and was perfectly at command. He was led through a field in which were four horses that had been his companions; they all surrounded him; he took no notice of them, but quietly followed his new master. A surcingle was buckled on him, and then a saddle, and he was finally fitted with a bridle. The whole experiment occupied about an hour, and not in a single instance did he rebel.

"On the next day, however, the breaker, a severe and obstinate fellow, took him in hand, and, according to his usual custom, began to beat him most cruelly. The horse broke from him, and became as unmanageable as ever. The spirit of the animal had been subdued, but not broken."—*Youatt on the Horse*, pp. 443-4.

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## CHAPTER XVII.

### VICES AND THEIR REMEDY.

INDEPENDENT of ordinary and general restiveness, in reference to which we have hitherto been speaking, there are certain *vices* peculiar to individual horses, of a very annoying character, and productive of very unpleasant consequences, both to the animal and his owner. We will enumerate a few of the most remarkable of these vices, and, at the same time, endeavour to suggest remedial expedients.

**CRIB-BITING.**—This very disagreeable vice has been pronounced in a court of law (before Lord Tenderden), to constitute unsoundness. It consists in a violent extension of the neck, an attempt to gripe the manger with the teeth, and, with a convulsive action of the throat, a sucking in of the air. Crib-biting is decidedly *infectious*, for one horse will, to a certainty, contract the habit from any other who possesses it, if placed in the next stall to him. The effects of this vice are serious. Besides the injury to the teeth, and the waste of corn (for the horse will usually bite with a full mouth), much loss of *saliva* takes place, by which digestion is, of course, impaired; *flatulence* is also produced by the inhalation of air, and a crib-biting horse is never so well up to his work as another.

Many remedial measures have been tried, but to no purpose. Among these I may enumerate covering the edge of the manger with iron, with sheep-skin, with tar, with aloes; a strap round the throat has been recommended—it cures crib-biting, but usually produces, if possible, a worse affection, viz., *roaring*.

Turning out to grass for a few months commonly succeeds with young horses: and Maxwell (Field Book) says that he had horses cured by turning them into loose boxes. Youatt recommends a muzzle with bars across the bottom, sufficiently wide to allow the horse to get at his corn, but sufficiently close to prevent his getting hold of the manger.

**WIND-SUCKING.**—The horse bends his neck, draws his head inward and downward, and *sucks* in the air. The effects are the same as those produced by crib-biting. I have induced several persons, whose horses were affected with this nasty vice, to try Mr. Youatt's remedy, and it has been invariably found successful. It consists in attaching to the head a leathern strap, with spikes pointing towards the neck. When the horse draws in his head, preparatory to sucking, the spikes prick his neck, a new and sudden impulse is given to his ideas, and the attempt at inhalation of air is abandoned.

**SHYING.**—This vice, which will often occasion the unseating of the best rider, if taken in an unguarded moment, proceeds from several different causes, and upon the individual cause the curative treatment must depend.

If the cause be imperfect sight, gentleness and coaxing are necessary. The use of whip or spur will only make matters worse ; but if the horse be treated with gentleness, and coaxed up to examine the object which terrified him, he will soon learn to place confidence in his rider, and his shyness will gradually disappear.

If the cause be mere skittishness, or *affectation* (Youatt), severity is also an objection. Keep the *mouth* well under command, ride on without more notice of the matter than an occasional touch with the spur ; and when the animal perceives that his pretended fright has failed to elicit any notice, he will soon weary of his performance.

If the cause be *inexperience*, the being unacquainted with the many new objects the animal encounters, the remedy is the same as that just described, remembering to avoid all harshness, and to treat the animal precisely as you would a timid child.

Mr. Laurence says—"These animals generally fix on some particular shying butt ; for example, I recollect having, at different periods, three hacks, all very powerful ; the one made choice of a windmill for the object or *butt* ; the other a tilted waggon, and the last a pig led in a string. It so happened, however, that I rode the two former when amiss from a violent cold, and they paid no more attention to either windmills or tilted waggons than to any other objects, convincing me that their shying when in health and spirits was pure *affectation*—an affectation, however, which may be speedily united with obstinacy and vice. Let it be treated with marked displeasure, mingled with gentle but decided firmness."

I quote the following from "The Veterinarian"; it will be found also in Mr. Youatt's valuable work on the horse—a work that I read carefully, "from cover to cover," with sincere pleasure, not, however, unmingled with regret, that the eminent author should be only one that was, and is not—lost for ever to the world of science :—

"We will suppose a case—a very common one, an everyday one. A man is riding a young horse upon the high road in the country, and meets a stage coach, what with the noise, the bustle, the imposing appearance altogether,

and the slashing of the coachman's whip, the animal, at its approach, erects his head and crest, pricks his ears, looks affrighted, and no sooner comes alongside of the machine, than he suddenly starts out of the road. His rider, annoyed by this, instantly commences a round of castigation with whip, spur, and curb, in which he persists until the horse, as well as himself, has lost his temper, and then one whips, spurs, and pulls, and the other jumps, plunges, pets, and throws up his head, until both, pretty well exhausted by the conflict, grow tranquil again, and proceed on their journey, though not for some time afterwards in their former mutual confidence and satisfaction. Should they in their road, or even on a distant day, meet with another coach, what is the consequence? The horse is not only *more alarmed than before*, but now the moment he has started, being conscious of his fault, and expecting chastisement, he jumps about in fearful agitation, making plunges to strike into a gallop, and attempting to run away; so that by this correction, instead of rendering his horse tranquil during the passage of a coach, the rider adds to the evil of shying, that of subsequently plunging, and, perhaps, running away."—*Veterinarian*, vol. i., p. 96, and *Youatt on the Horse*, p. 454.

The horse will sometimes prove restive and obstinate when mounted by a strange rider—by one with whom he is unacquainted. If the party be unused to riding, he had better give up the attempt; but if he possess a knowledge of the art of *sitting a horse*, he may speedily let the animal know that he is his master, and it is astonishing what an amount of *respect* this will produce. A few masterly touches will usually sober a horse at once.

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## CHAPTER XVIII.

### DISEASES OF THE HORSE.

I AM confident that the reader will have perceived from the brevity with which I was compelled to treat many of the preceding subjects, the extreme difficulty of entering into



all details relative to an animal of such importance as the horse, in the limits of so small a volume; he will then, I hope, have ceased to expect here a minute dissertation upon that animal's diseases. In fact, even were it practicable to give such a dissertation, I can safely aver that it would be of no manner of service, but rather the reverse. The horse is too valuable, too *costly* an animal, to be rendered, at any time, the subject of blind quackery. It has been well said, that he who undertakes his own defence in a court of law "*has a fool for his client.*" I affirm that he who endeavours to "*doctor*" his own horse is a greater fool still. No—veterinary surgeons are now happily plenty; as soon as you find your horse indisposed, send for one, or send the animal to him. Hundreds of gentlemen are annually educated for practising this profession, both in London and Edinburgh (the latter college, by the way, owes its establishment and present high character solely to the exertions of that justly celebrated veterinarian, William Dick); and surely it is better to disburse a moderate fee than to sacrifice, or risk sacrificing, a valuable horse. In order to treat the diseases of the horse, you should understand his organization, habits, &c. To attain to this would require years of close application, followed by years of diligent practice. Is it not, then, better to avail yourself of the aid of those who have passed this ordeal, who have acquired this necessary knowledge, and who have, in fact, made its practical application their profession? In the preceding pages I have probably done more good than I could effect in ten volumes on the subject of disease, as I have shown, I hope, the means by which the access of disease may in many cases be *prevented*, and you know the old adage.

There are still, however, cases in which you may advantageously become your "*own horse-doctor,*" and I must give you some instruction relative to these.

**BLEEDING.**—For instance, every man who keeps horses should know how to bleed, as timely bleeding will, in many instances, avert a dangerous fit of illness. Colds, caught by being suddenly turned out from a hot stable to a damp pasture, or in cold or wet weather, or from being left out at night under similar circumstances, may lead to serious re-

sults, and amongst others fever, that may probably terminate fatally. Prompt bleeding will often avert this; and, perhaps, by the time a veterinary surgeon could arrive, the disease might have passed to another stage, in which bleeding would not only be too late, but improper. I shall therefore tell you how to bleed.

In bleeding, the *lancet* is doubtless preferable to the *fleam*, but only in the hands of the veterinary practitioner. The place for bleeding is usually the jugular vein. You have the horse blindfolded; smoothe the coat along the course of the vein; have the head of the animal turned from you by an assistant; with the fingers of the left hand, which holds the fleam, press upon the vein just sufficiently to bring it well into view. The best point is about two inches below the junction of the two branches of the jugular near the angle of the jaw; place the fleam exactly on the course of the vein, and strike smartly, but not too violently, on the back of the fleam. Bleed always from a *large orifice*, and for this purpose a large-bladed fleam is preferable; for a small quantity of blood rapidly abstracted will produce more valuable effect than a large quantity gradually drawn. When enough of blood has been taken, remove the pressure, bring the lips of the wound together, pass a pin through them, and roll some tow or silk thread round it, over the extremities of the pin. Secure the horse for a couple of hours, so that he cannot rub this off against the manger. There is a *spring-lancet*, to be obtained from most cutlers, that is to be greatly preferred to the fleam. See that the blade be *clean*. Blood may be, for local purposes, abstracted from any superficial vein in the same manner.

**DRENCHING.**—You should also know how to administer DRENCHES. Never use a *bottle* for this purpose, as the horse might bite away the neck, and either swallow a portion of the glass, or otherwise injure himself. Have a cow's horn for this purpose, the larger end cut in a slanting direction; pass a halter into the mouth, and let an assistant keep the head elevated, by means of a stable-fork, as high as he is able; you then draw forth the tongue with your left hand, and, with the right, introduce the small end of the horn into the mouth, gently of course, over the tongue; a turn of the

wrist will then empty the contents into the mouth; a simultaneous movement withdraws the horn and lets go the tongue. Keep the head up till all is swallowed; and if the horse retain some of the drench obstinately in the mouth, a slap on the nose will generally compel him to swallow it. Do not try to give too much at once; be sure to introduce the horn far enough, and to turn and withdraw it quickly, but without hurting the gums or lips of the horse.

BALLS are given in a somewhat similar manner; but the head does not require to be held so high.

ACCIDENTS.—There are also some ACCIDENTS that the proprietor of a horse may with safety look after himself. For instance, BROKEN KNEES. When a horse falls and lacerates his knees, your first object should be, by careful washing, to remove all foreign substances from the wound. In the next place, ascertain whether the joint cavity has been penetrated. I cannot recommend *you* to use a *probe* for this purpose; but apply a poultice of linseed-meal, and when, in about eight or ten hours afterwards, you take it off, you will see a yellowish, glairy fluid, effused upon it, if the joint have been penetrated. Should this have been the case, send at once for the veterinary surgeon. When the joint has not been penetrated, get the lips of the wound together, and keep them so by a compress and bandages, which need not be renewed till the third day. The earlier the wound is closed the less mark will be left on the part.

LAMENESS.—It is sometimes difficult to detect the *cause* of lameness, especially of the anterior extremities; I would, however, say, that it is a safe criterion to watch how the horse moves. If he lift his feet, the *shoulder* is not the injured part; but if the *shoulder* be affected, the pain that any raising of the foot will occasion will cause him to drag the toe along the ground, instead of attempting to raise the foot. In *shoulder-lameness* you can do nothing but get the surgeon as soon as possible; in the other case, examine the *foot*, as found-nail or bad shoeing may be the exciting cause.

STABS or CUTS.—Let your first care be to remove the cause, if any such remain in the wound; send at the same time for the nearest veterinary surgeon. If there be much

effusion of blood, strive to check it as much as possible, pending that gentleman's arrival: this may be best done by producing pressure on the bleeding vessels, and affusion of cold water. In some cases a solution of alum, or any other harmless astringent, may be useful. Pricks in the sole are a very frequent cause of "*Quittor*," and should, therefore, be timely looked to; but it is well to caution you to observe the manner in which the farrier removes the shoe for the purpose of examination. Do not suffer him to take it off *violently*; each nail should be *separately extracted*, and the shoe then removed, otherwise the affair will probably be made worse. When the shoe is thus *gently* removed, the appearance of matter or moisture on some particular spot will usually indicate the seat of pain.

As we are speaking of *farriers*, it may not be amiss to add, that many cases of lameness are induced by *bad shoeing*. Want of space renders it impossible for me to enter into a treatise on the *foot of the horse*; but it may be well to state, that the reader can purchase separately many excellent works on that most important subject. My own advice is, to send your horse always to a forge that is under the superintendence of a *veterinary surgeon*.

**COLIC** attacks a horse in many instances very suddenly, and requires immediate relief. Send for the veterinary surgeon, but, pending his arrival, give, as a drench, about two ounces of oil of turpentine with six drachms of laudanum, in a pint of castor or linseed oil, *warm*. After the spasms have disappeared, rub the horse dry, the belly and flanks especially; but I do not, as some do, recommend the horse to be trotted about—better let him rest. Give no *spirits*, *pepper*, or other *stimulants*.

**FITS.**—You had better in this case send for the surgeon at once, if your horse be valuable; if otherwise, get rid of him.

**GLANDERS.**—In *purchasing* a horse, be very careful to ascertain that he is unaffected with this truly terrible disease, for which there is no cure, and which has, in so many frightful instances, proved its communicability to man and other animals. Notwithstanding the awful nature of this disease, however—not a whit less dreadful than **HYDRO-**

PHOBIA—dealers at fairs and other places will frequently endeavour to pass off a glandered horse upon an unwary customer. It is not long since an instance of this fell under my own observation at Fieldstown horse fair, in the county Meath. The trick usually resorted to is, stimulating the nostrils till the horse has snorted away all the matter lying in them, and then, by injections of an astringent nature, producing a temporary suppression of the discharge. Others cram a pledget of tow up the nostrils. These tricks may be detected by the animal's uneasiness, tossing of his head, efforts to sneeze, the red and vascular appearance of the interior of the nostril, but especially by the *fetid breath*.

FARCY and glanders are, to a considerable extent, connected, as each when neglected, or proving obstinate, is apt to run into the other. Like glanders, farcy is highly contagious; but is not, like that disease, wholly impregnable to the attacks of science. When the disease first appears—and its appearance is familiar to all about horses—give an aperient drench. If it be the *button-farcy*, touch the *buttons* with the extremity of a hot iron; if you have no “budding-iron” by you, the top of an “Italian iron,” such as laundresses use, may be made to answer. Examine the sores daily, and as soon as they begin to slough, touch with a solution of a drachm of corrosive sublimate, in an ounce of spirit of wine, to which is added two drachms of creozote. Give internally a ball daily, composed of corrosive sublimate, twelve grains; two drachms of powdered gentian, one drachm of ginger, and one ounce of powdered brimstone. As soon as the mouth begins to look affected by the mercury, or the animal is violently purged, omit the corrosive sublimate, but continue the remainder of the ball. Keep the animal in an airy situation, but one not exposed to draughts or damp; and feed on green meat, such as parsnips and carrots especially, which roots possess *sweetening* qualities of a high order.

LAMPAS, or swelling of the “bars,” or vacant spaces between the tusks and grinders—an affection very common to young horses when teething—will generally yield to mild alteratives, and cooling drinks; but if it do not, a few slight incisions with a lancet or penknife will produce

relief, taking care to confine your scarification to the *outside edge*, so as to avoid the palatine artery and vein. Do not permit the bars to be *fired*.

STRANGLES, also a common disease of young horses, and presenting symptoms so like those of glanders, as to be sometimes confounded with that disease. Strangles may, however, be distinguished from glanders, by the formation in the former of a continuous tumour in the hollow under the lower jaw. The treatment consists in bringing this swelling to a head, by means of a blister; as soon as it is soft on the top, it should be opened, and that by *free incisions*. The sore may then be dressed for a few days with common digestive ointment. Cooling drinks, as cream of tartar and nitre, may be given with advantage; if there be appearance of fever, or affection of the chest, send for the surgeon, as the treatment is now beyond your skill. This, however, is rarely the case.

POLL EVIL, a swelling of the poll, caused by the horse striking it against the lower edge of the manger, when raising it suddenly after stooping, or by pulling upon his halter. In most cases, all attempts to prevent suppuration are useless, and I think it best to endeavour at once to hasten it. Then open the tumour by means of a seton, which should be passed in at the top, penetrate through the bottom, and pass out at the side of the neck, just below the abscess. Foment with warm water, and keep the parts clean.

ROARING, most generally the consequence of malformation of the larynx, but sometimes occurring by a sequel to strangles, and sometimes arising from palsy of the muscles connected with the larynx. The use of a strap for the cure of crib-biting is also an occasional cause. I know of no cure, and am disposed to think that, in all cases, *roaring* is beyond the reach of treatment. I would also advise you not to *breed from* a "roarer," as this defect is, in many cases, transmitted to the progeny.

SADDLE-GALLS might have been prevented by using properly-adjusted and well-stuffed harness or collars. Rest the horse, bathe twice daily with warm water, and after each bathing dress with spermaceti ointment.

**INFLAMMATION.**—When you find a horse dull, listless, off his feed, coat staring, chest and nose hot, extremities cold, some attack of an inflammatory nature is at hand. Bleed from a large orifice, until you find the pulse sensibly diminish; administer a purgative; but, meanwhile, let the veterinary surgeon have been sent for with all speed.

**SPAVIN.**—An enlargement of the little sacs of mucus placed between the tendons to prevent friction. The most common place for this to occur is at the inside of the hock, at the bend. This is called *bog-spavin*. When this becomes so much enlarged as to produce compression of the vein passing over it, between it and the integuments, the vein shares in the distension, and it becomes *blood-spavin*. In general, a spavined horse is lame, but not invariably so. Blistering, or perhaps *firing*, is the only cure on which I place any reliance.

“**DISTEMPER,**” or more correctly, epidemic catarrh, generally commences in shivering; then heat of mouth and nostrils, cough, red and heavy eye, redness of the membrane of the nose. From the commencement, there is generally, but not invariably, a discharge from the nostrils, which, in neglected cases, becomes fetid and ropy. This disease requires too much judgment, and too much knowledge of the very varied treatment called for in each different stage, for me to be disposed to give you any advice, further than that, if you have detected it at its *very commencement*, bleed copiously, and give a strong purgative, the veterinary surgeon being also sent for. Do not suffer yourself to be made a victim of quacks. There is no *specific* for this disease, and, under improper treatment, it is more frequently fatal than otherwise. The early attendance of a veterinary surgeon in this disease is the more desirable, as its early symptoms are extremely like those of

**MALIGNANT EPIDEMIC**, which latter disease rapidly runs into gangrene, and terminates in death; and the former disease frequently passes into the latter, when not properly combated at first.

**BROKEN WIND.**—Incurable; but may be alleviated by *condensing the food*—reducing as much as possible the *quantity* necessary to be consumed, by giving the necessary

nutriment in as small a compass as you can—as, for instance, more oats and less hay. Keep the bowels moderately open, and never work upon a full stomach. Feeding upon carrots will also be found beneficial.

**WORMS.**—The symptoms show themselves in the appearance of the vermin in the excrements, or creeping out of the anus. Give two drachms of tartar emetic, with twenty grains of powdered ginger, every morning, *fasting*. When there appears much irritation about the anus, give a strong dose of aloes, and *inject* linseed oil.

**JAUNDICE**, known by the yellowness of the eyes, mouth, and of all naked portions of the skin, with high-coloured urine, dulness, and loss of appetite. Bleed; give twice daily, until the bowels have been freely opened, two drachms of aloes, with one drachm of calomel; warm white-water, or thin gruel. Keep the stable cool; feed on green meats.

**DIFFICULTY OF STALING**—Give plenty of warm drink; give linseed boiled in plenty of water; turpentine made into a ball with linseed meal; half an ounce of turpentine and half a drachm of ginger, with as much of the meal as is required to form the ball.

**IN PROFUSE STALING**, the opposite of the preceding. The treatment should be bleeding, purging; every kind of counter irritation; astringent medicines; feed on carrots.

**WINDGALLS.**—An enlargement about the fetlock, caused by the enlargement of the mucus sacs, spoken of already in reference to spavin. Treatment the same.

**RINGBONE.**—A deposit of bony matter on the cartilages and bones of the pastern and foot. The only cure is *fireing*, and even it is only occasionally successful.

**THOROUGH-PIN**, analogous to windgalls and spavin, being a similar enlargement above the hock, between the extensor muscle of the hock and the flexor tendons of the foot. Mode of treatment same as for windgalls.

**CURB** is the consequence of a strain of the tendon or its sheath, or the circular ligament which holds it in its place. It appears under the form of an enlargement at the back of the hock, two or three inches below its point. Bleed from the subcutaneous vein nearest the seat of injury; use emol-



lient fomentations. Firing is sometimes, but not invariably, advisable. A veterinary surgeon must judge of this.

STRINGHALT—Cause and cure alike unknown.

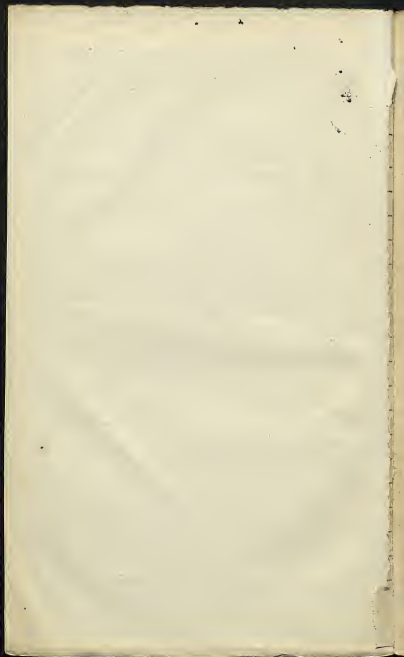
GREASE commences in inflammation of the skin of the heels, proceeding to excoriation, cracking, ulceration, and fungus. Cleanse well with soft-soap and water; use a solution of alum, or sulphate of copper, as a lotion. If there be much foulness, a carrot-poultice is valuable. Keep the bowels well open.

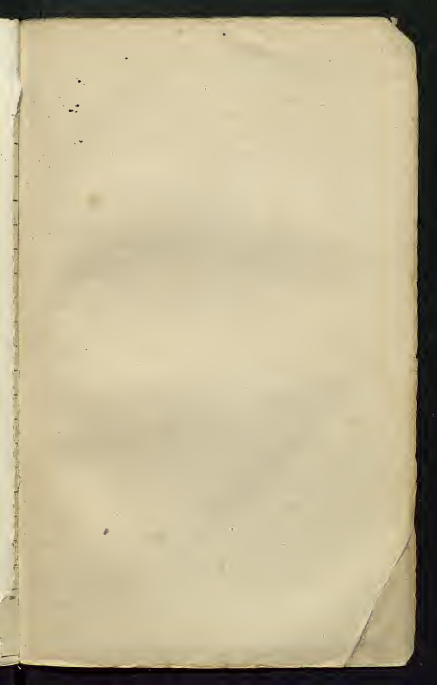
CORNS—Resulting from bad shoeing. Cure obvious.

OVERREACH—The bruise given by an awkward blow of the toe of one foot against the heel of another. Cleanse, and fasten a pledget of tow, dipped in friar's-balsam, upon the wound. When neglected, overreach will run into QUITTOR, which will require veterinary care.

Feeling that the above brief hints are all that would be likely to aid the amateur in the treatment of his horse, I conclude with an earnest reiteration of my advice—Whenever a horse worth saving displays symptoms of illness, send, without any loss of time, for—not a village farrier, or “cattle doctor”—but a regularly educated and diploma'd VETERINARY SURGEON.

THE END.





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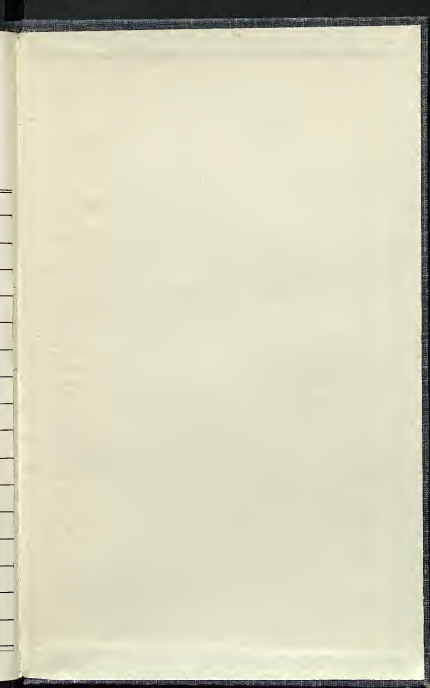
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